



Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group Newsletter Issue 28 February 2021

Dear Hill Enders & Tambaroorians

Preparing this newsletter has been a challenging undertaking this time. The hardest part has been the trying to effectively plan the forthcoming events over the next few months. Hard decisions had to be made. Plan A had to be achievable in our changing environment, Plan B had to be formed “just in case”. This seems to be something that we are having to learn to live with.

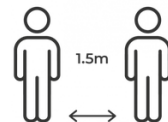
Sometimes last minute changes may have to be made. Now might be a good opportunity to join our Facebook Page, where we will be able to post the latest news on these upcoming events. In the meantime, we will plough ahead with our plans and hope they come to fruition.



Change of date for the Annual Gathering: Saturday 1 May

Keeping Covid Safe....

A decision has been made to postpone the annual Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering this year. The new date is **Saturday May 1**, and the venue, Rhodes Rotary Park. Killoola St, Concord, has been rebooked for this date. Further details on the last page of this newsletter.



Hopefully by then matters will be much improved and there will be more relaxed regulations regarding group numbers allowed in outdoor settings. **Please let any of your family or friends know of this changed date. For community safety we will be encouraging physical distancing.**

“Strive with Honour – Hill End Public School 1870-2020” book launch.

We would love to invite as many people as possible join us at the Gathering this year as we have a very important book to launch at midday. Come along and get your copy!

This is our latest joint venture with the School and the community, and it has taken 18 months to bring together. “Researching in the time of Covid” can be an interesting undertaking. With State Archives and the State Library closed during the crucial preparatory stage Helen Wood and Karen Bates took up the challenge. With the retyping of previous histories by Verna Little, Helen was then able to combine them into one continuous story. Karen was then able to undertake oral histories with a selection of our members who attended the school from the 1940s onwards. With no departmental records available to us Annette Sheen painstakingly indexed the past school newsletters for significant events for inclusion in the book. These were then all melded into a continuous narrative. With input from Christopher Grossett, the current Principal, the work was brought up to date to the end of 2020. A wide range of photographs, many previously unpublished, were then added into the text.

This work is a story of more than just the school. It reflects a broad social history of the town over the past 150 years. Over the years the school has produced Members of Parliament, numerous educators, historians, authors, artists, sportsmen & women, military & business people and social commentators. There are over 250 pages including full colour illustrations, and many photos that have not been published before. Chris Dingle has added his magic and colourised many of the old B&W images and also designed the covers. It is fully indexed with the names of those mentioned in the text and incorporates an almost complete list of principals and teachers who have spent some time in Hill End.

One of the most important inclusions is a listing, in alphabetical order, of over 4500 students who attended the school from 1870 – 1970. Sourced from the old handwritten admissions registers our volunteers, Verna Little and Alison Briggs have deciphered the teachers’ handwritten entries and compiled them into one alphabetical list. This is a fantastic record for the family historian as it can help in determining when a family arrived and left the goldfields.

For those members who attended the school we hope it brings back many memories. Some may be good, and others “may” involve the cane, or warm Milo on a cold winter’s day, but the nostalgia included will certainly appeal to all!

Copies of “Strive with Honour” can be ordered through [our Bookshop page](#) on the website. It is also available in Bathurst at the Visitors Centre and Books Plus bookshop, at the Mudgee Colonial Museum, as well as from the General Store and the Public School in Hill End. If you live locally in Sydney, then it can be obtained from Lorraine at Carlton. Contact her by phone (0408117784) or email heatgg@yahoo.com.au to make arrangements to collect.

Hill End Public School 150th Celebrations – Saturday 22 May 2021 (Please note change of date from 15 May)



Hill End Public School Students & teachers, 2020

On Saturday 22nd May the school will be hosting an Open Day to commemorate 150 years of continued instruction and will be celebrating the past, present, and future of education in the village!

During the day, the official Hill End launch of the school history “Strive with Honour” will form part of the festivities. We are hoping for a great turnout of ex-students and teachers to join us at this Reunion in Hill End, to revisit the School and relive the memories.

A dinner at The Lodge Motel, catered for by the General Store and Café will be held on the Saturday evening where you can catch up with your old school friends and teachers. Descendants of the early pupils and staff are especially invited to come along and share their ancestor’s stories.

Please contact Hill End Public School to register your interest in attending this event so they can send you more details when they become available. Phone (02) 6337 8265 between 9am & 2.30pm. or email hillend-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au Places at the dinner need to be booked with the school beforehand for catering purposes. Further details will also be up on [our Facebook page](#) as they come to hand.

If you are planning to attend this event in Hill End, then please make your accommodation bookings early to avoid disappointment. It is suggested that you book directly with your choice of venue, as a lot of the online booking sites seem to show that they are booked out, when in fact there are vacancies.

School snippets.

During our research for our latest publication, “Strive with Honour, Hill End Public School 1870 – 2020” we came across some wonderful snippets. We are grateful to the many ex-students and teachers who shared their photos and memorabilia with us.



In May 1950, the school newsletter, “Specks of Gold” reported on a Pet Parade that had been recently held. One can only imagine the chaos and pandemonium with all these pets arriving at school on the big day!

A lot of our members will be familiar with the names recorded below.

The following were the results:

Upper Division	Best Cat	A. Tunbridge	General Prizes	
	Best Dog	B. Nightingale	Best Bird	Derek Brodie
	Small dog	E. Judge	Duck with most colour	Gwen Warry
	Kitten	B. Anderson	Duck with reddest cheeks	Dick Thompson
Lower Division	Best Cat	A. Ellis	Hen with the reddest comb	Bill Byrnes
	Best Dog	Leslie Ellis	Best Horse	Tom Eldridge
	Small dog	Ron Auld	Most decorative Pet	Ray Whittaker
	Kitten	Robert Anderson		

Dogs			
Longest Tail	J. Warry	Shortest Tail	Ross Ellis
Brownest Eyes	L. Auld	Fattest Dog	G. Ellis
Thinnest Dog	J. Warry	Best Grin	R. Francis
Best Bark	Ron Warry	Sorrowful Dog	J. Brodie
Best Tail-wagger	D. Thompson	Fiercest looking Dog	M. Drakeford
Longest Legs	W. Lincoln	Shortest legs	M. Burnard
Largest Feet	G. Warry	Smallest legs	I. Byrnes
Most spots	S. Longmore	Cleanest Dog	P. Thompson
Dirtiest Dog	F. Trevithick	Longest Hair	R. Auld
Fattest tail	B. Woods	Best Runner	G. Warry

Cats			
Longest Whiskers	Marcia Hodge	Shortest Whiskers	T. Woolard
Shortest ears	K. Eldridge	Fattest Cat	Janice Judge
Thinnest cat	Peter Burns	Saddest cat	M. Byrnes
Cleanest cat	Doug Brodie	Dirtiest Cat	P. Warry
Most colourful cat	Bev. Ellis		

Condolences

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of the following Gathering Group members who have passed away recently.

Henry (Harry) Lawson, (Dec 2019) Grandson of Glendora Lawson.

Alex Black, (Aug 2020) descendant of the English family.

Alice Ellis (from Bulli) wife of Dick Ellis, Ellis Sibley connections.

Barbara (Babs) Fuller-Quinn, (25 May 2020) descendant of the Dunn, Fullerton, Slack, Plummer & Pascoe families.

Marion Therese Gredka (nee Carver) (30th August 2020) daughter of Bon and Dulcie, sister of Billy and Annette.

Jim Shanahan (9 October 2020) Long term Hill End resident.

Robert George Anderson, (27 December 2020) descendant of Anderson & Warry families & long time Hill End resident.



Hill End & Tambaroora Cemetery

For the last few years, due to the drought etc, the vegetation in the cemeteries has laid idle. However, with the coming of all the rain towards the end of last year every weed known to the district started to sprout there and it was generally noticed that the place looked very unkempt. In normal circumstances the Weekend Detention fellows from Corrective Services were employed to keep the area tidy by mowing the grass etc. With the restrictions placed on them because of Covid, unfortunately they were unable to attend which added to the problem.

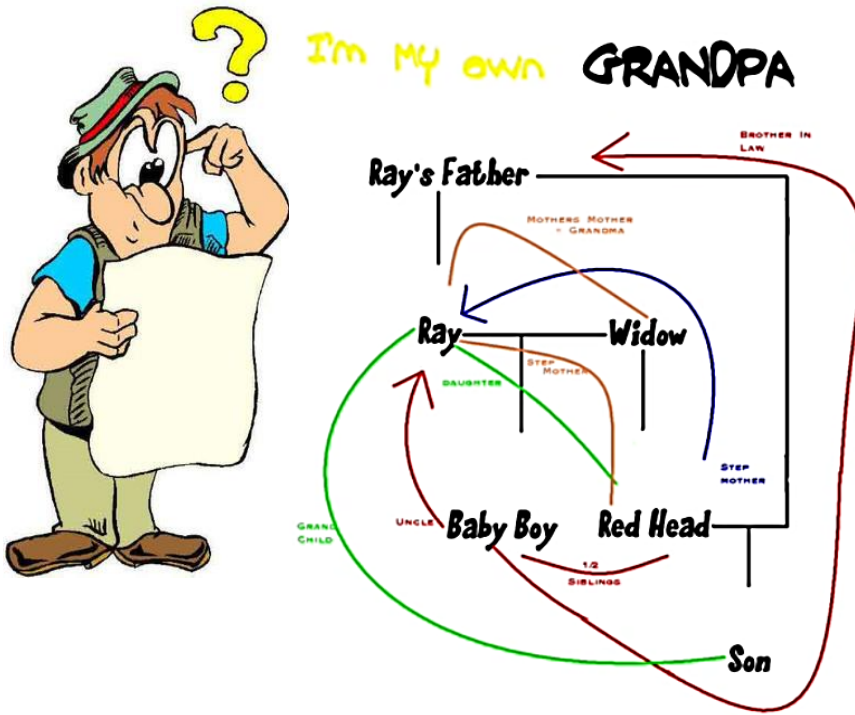
Once the matter was raised on the Hill End Facebook page a number of local chaps took it upon themselves to clear the place up and spent a number of days down there, with mowers and whipper snippers, getting the place tidied up. HEATGG helped them with a donation to assist in covering their fuel costs. A small number of HEATGG volunteers also turned up with Ted Abbott on another day and helped clear a number of graves and disposed the excess vegetation.

As the Cemeteries in the area fall under the care of Bathurst Regional Council, we will be making enquiries as to what steps they will be taking in the short term to ensure that this situation does not arise again.

Many thanks to all who were involved.



And you think you've got a complicated family tree!



I'm my own Grandpa!

Many, many years ago when I was 23,
I was married to a widow, who was pretty as could be.
This widow had a grown-up daughter who had hair of red
My father fell in Love with her and soon they too were wed.

This made my dad my son-in-law and changed my very life!
For my daughter was my mother 'cause she was my father's wife!
To complicate the matter even though it brought me joy,
I soon became the father of a bouncing baby boy.

My little baby then became a brother-in-law to Dad.
And so became my uncle thou it made me very sad!
Where if he was my uncle then that also made him brother
To the widow's grown-up daughter, who, 'course was my stepmother.

My father's wife then had a son who kept them on the run.
And he became my grandchild 'cause he was my daughter's son.
My wife is now my mother's mother and it makes me blue
Because although she is my wife, she's my grandmother too!

If my wife is my grandmother, then I am her grandchild,
And every time I think of it, it nearly drives me wild!
This is got to be the strangest thing I ever saw
As husband of my grandmother, I am my own grandpa!

CHORUS:

I'm my own grandpa! I'm my own grandpa!
It sound' funny, I know, but it really is so!
Hey! I'm my own grandpa!

"I'm My Own Grandpa" is a novelty song written by Dwight Latham and Moe Jaffe, about a man who, through an unlikely (but legal) combination of marriages, becomes stepfather to his own stepmother—that is, tacitly dropping the "step-" modifiers, he becomes his own grandfather. In the song, the narrator marries a widow with an adult daughter. Subsequently, his father marries the widow's daughter. This creates a comic tangle of relationships by a mixture of blood and marriage; for example, the narrator's father is now also his stepson-in-law. The situation is complicated further when both couples have children.

Although the song continues to mention that both the narrator's wife and stepdaughter had children by the narrator and his father, respectively, the narrator actually becomes "his own grandpa" once his father marries the woman's daughter.

The narrator marries the older woman. This results in the woman's daughter becoming his stepdaughter.

Subsequently, the narrator's father marries the older woman's daughter. The woman's daughter, being the new wife of the narrator's father, is now both his stepdaughter and his stepmother.

Concurrently, the narrator's father, being his stepdaughter's husband, is also his own stepson-in-law.

The narrator's wife, being the mother of his stepmother, is both the narrator's spouse and his step-grandmother. The husband of the narrator's wife would then be the narrator's step-grandfather. Since the narrator is that person, he has managed to become his own (step-step)grandfather. The "step-step" concept applies because the stepfather of one's step-mother would be one's step-step-grandfather, making a "double step" event possible.

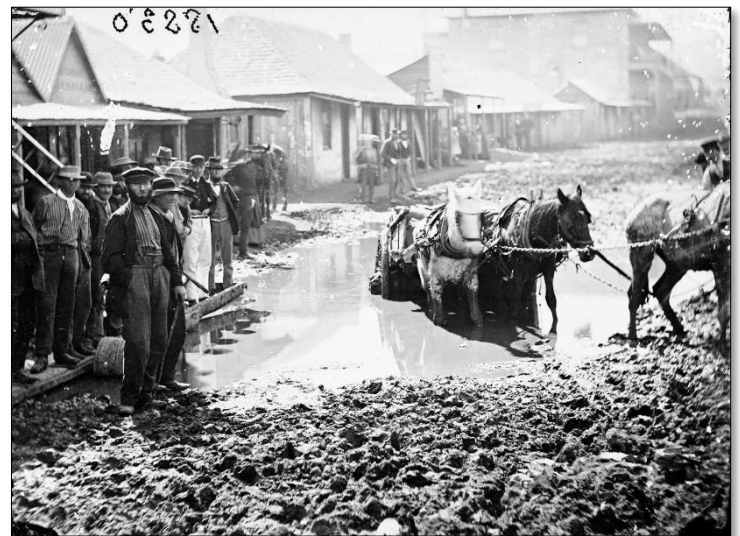
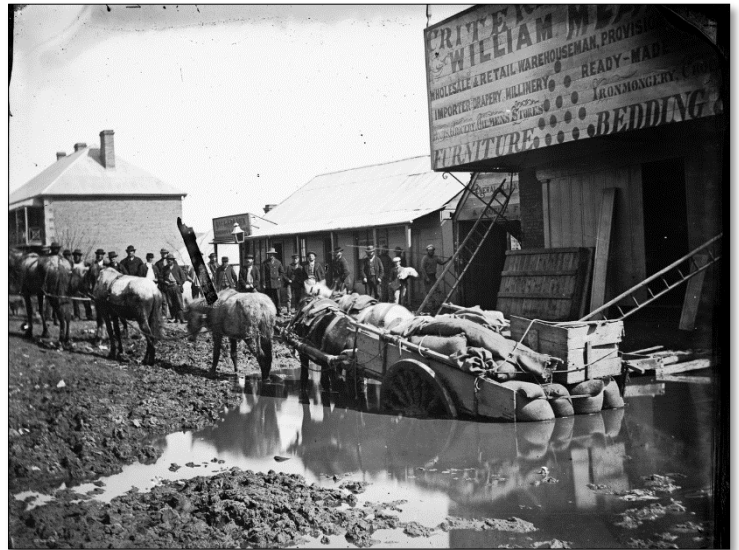
Got it????????????

The pictures say it all.

These classic Holtermann Collection photographs can now be dated very accurately, thanks to the reporting of the *Freeman's Journal* correspondent who was on the spot on 26 October 1872.

Should any of your readers wish to see glimpses of Hill End, and the circumjacent scenery, I would advise them to write to the American Photographic Company, that is temporarily established there. They can purchase a pantascopic view of the Lower Taron Valley, with all the sinuosities of that modern Pactolus. The snake-like windings of the tracks on the brow of old Hawkins Hill, with the positions of the tunnels and shafts, down its stony sides are accurately delineated.

From generalities to particulars they can descend and get a view of almost every place of note around. Should anyone (which I doubt) be tempted to take my advice, for goodness sake let him get the view of the engulfed horse in from old Billy Mears' store (Clarke-street.) This view will tell him more of the dangers of ruts and dab, than I could tell him in a month by description. The dray is sunk from sight altogether down in the depths below, whilst the poor brute of a horse is struggling to keep his nostrils and his ears above the surrounding quagmire. Persons in the distance are tugging at a rope's end which is so tight around the animals neck that strangulation, as well as suffocation stare him in the face. Poor *equus* you were foaled under a showery planet and your father and mother little fore-saw your calamities the day they permitted you to visit the *Rue de Clarke* on Hill End.



A recent online find....

When researching material relating to Hill End & Tambaroora sometimes unusual items pop up. A recent listing of items sold on a Sydney Auction site revealed a photograph of a 15ct gold fob, presented by the people of Hill End in appreciation to Private John Joseph Macryannis on his return from Active Service. John (Jack) served with the 17th & 33rd Battalions in England and

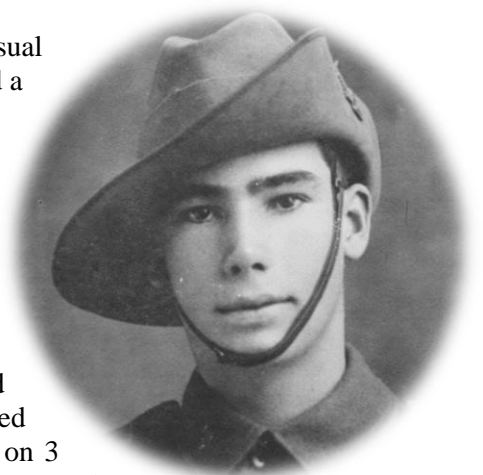
France and suffered the sever effects of a mustard gas attack. He was discharged on 12

August 1919 and returned to Hill End where he was welcomed

home at the Royal Hall on 3

October 1919, and was presented

with this suitably inscribed gold medal and a useful bundle of clothing from the Ladies Knitting Circle. Here's hoping that whoever bought it finds out the full story of this "Tambaroora Boy Hero" as he was known locally. (information taken from *Golden Diggers, Hill End & Tambaroora District's contribution to the First World War*, by Helen Wood & Lorraine Purcell. – Available on our [Bookshop Page](#)



The Miner wants a wife....

No “on-line” dating back in 1854 but it didn’t deter “A GENTLEMAN” from advertising in the *Bathurst Free Press and Mining Journal* on 23 September 1854, for an attractive “help-mate”.

MATRIMONIAL

A GENTLEMAN who resides in the neighbourhood of the Turon diggings and where age is two multiplied by three multiplied by four [24] is desirous of forming a matrimonial alliance. As he finds that the Misses of the Turon, are few and far between and not by any means suited to his taste or circumstances in life, he now appeals to the ladies of Bathurst and its vicinity in the expectation that one may be found who would be willing to take him as her partner and share with him the ills that follow man through life's tempestuous sea. The advertiser would observe that, in selecting a suitable help-mate, money with him will be a secondary consideration, so long as mental and personal attractions are combined to render the fair one worthy of his Hymeneal aspirations.

In the correspondence which may arise from this advertisement the strictest secrecy will be observed, and all communications addressed XYZ Post Office Sofala will meet with immediate attention.

A fair proposition, seeing that “money with him will be a secondary consideration”....but one can only wonder if it was to be his money or hers?

Hill End, a tourist Mecca in the time of Covid.

Covid has been a mixed blessing in Hill End. Fortunately, from my understanding, there have been no cases of COVID 19 in the immediate area, which is a blessing as a considerable portion of the local population fall into the vulnerable category.

The town went into “lockdown” along with the rest of NSW in March and it wasn’t until August, or later that movement was allowed around the state. Trips to Bathurst and Mudgee were only taken when absolutely necessary and the streets were empty. All tourist accommodation was curtailed during the lockdown and restrictions were placed on visits to the General Store and the Royal Hotel.

However, by October when the road over the Blue Mountains was again “opened” but overseas & interstate travel was still curtailed, people were looking get on the road again and Hill End was one of their destinations. The October Long Weekend, when we usually have our Market in the Royal Hall, was in the middle of the School Holidays and the town was packed. We had to cancel our Market as we knew we would not be able to comply with the Covid Restrictions – What a shame! – a captive customer base with nowhere to spend their money!



Daphne, Lorraine & Dennis “on tourist duty” outside the Hall



A diggers wife, a Spanish woman by G. Lacy. In the early 1850s, Lacy was on the gold fields of central west New South Wales, where his works centred on the local mining community. His portrayal of their lives and losses was often handled in a comical, humorous manner, primarily in watercolour.

National Parks front office was closed and knowing that the businesses that were open in the town would be inundated during their opening hours, and possibly unable to cope with the influx of enquiries not related to their business, we took the initiative and set up our gazebo outside the Royal Hall as an information stall. We had supplies of local business brochures, National Parks maps and a bit of local tourist knowledge (and a phone that ran on the Optus system).

Daphne, Michelle, Dennis & Lorraine spent a few hours on both days directing the visitors to various sites and answering their enquiries. We had a great time interacting with those who dropped by and were able to welcome first timers to the district, send them off panning, or told them the best sites to visit in the time they had available.

Visitors appreciated being able to speak with real people and the feedback was excellent too.

Local visitors

“A grand and picturesque little town is Hill End at all times, but just now really as beautiful as the pictures we see of English rural scenery. Judged by the appearance of the place, the surviving people of the thousands who once were here are really a good type of colonist, deserving of every public or governmental encouragement or assistance. The true public spirit is shown in the first class municipal garb of the town, despite a long period of dreadful dullness that has sorely tried every man in the place. If a man or woman, shattered in health beyond the reach of human aid, wants to be born again Hill End is the spot. It is a dominion in the clouds, with a climate bracing, but mild - cold but not severe - where one may travel about for something for his appetite but never for an appetite for something.”

Sounds good, doesn't it. The above article from *The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser* on 9 July 1887 certainly enticed the traveller to visit and enjoy the place.



Members of **Bathurst Family History Group** were able to experience the above description for themselves when they visited the Village in November. They took in the delightful views of Hawkins Hill and heard of the issues facing the Hawkins Hill precinct, where despite the fascinating history, time is slowly destroying the relics. Richard Shaw and Lorraine Purcell provided information on the sites and after a visit to the Kings Reef mining site all adjourned to Lyle Park for lunch where Juanita Kwok told tales of the Chinese in Tambaroora. The Group then spent some time inspecting the Heritage Centre and the local sights around town before heading back to the metropolis of Bathurst.

In October, our Group Photographer, Di Greenhaw was on a road trip around NSW with her Woy Woy Everglades Probus Club friends. Di suggested that their first major stop be Hill End. Here they spent the day learning about the mining history of the place and visited all the scenic spots and enjoyed lunch at the Lodge, catered for by the 24 Carrot Cafe.

They were enthralled, as many of them had heard about the place when their children had visited when on school excursions. Many promised that a return visit, when they could stay longer to appreciate the ambience, was definitely on the cards.



Hill End Trivia (or Six degrees of separation)

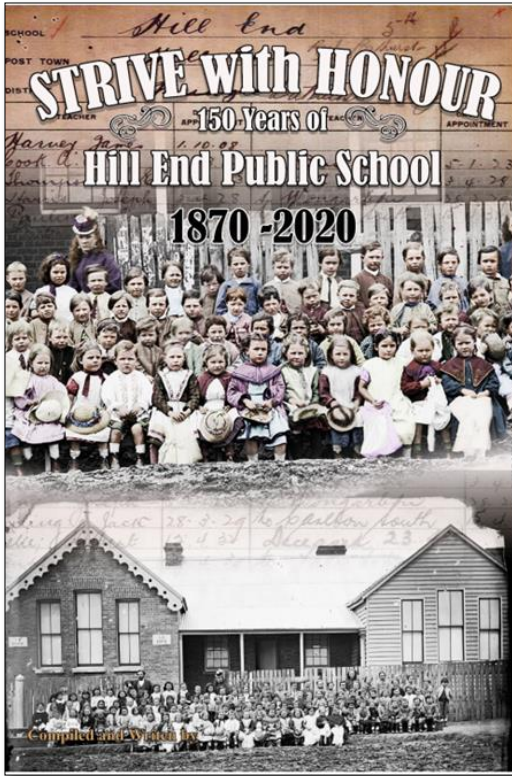


We were recently informed of a Hill End connection (of sorts) to the Hollywood film world. American actress, activist and mother of many, Mia Farrow, who has appeared in more than 50 films and won numerous awards, can trace her roots back to Hill End!

James Farrow, who worked as a miner in Hill End was her great grandfather. Her grandfather, Joseph Farrow, was born in Wellington in 1879 to James & Jane Maria (nee Canham). While Joseph was born after the family left Hill End in early 1876, his 3 brothers and 2 sisters attended Hill End Public School between May 1872 and January 1876. Joseph's son, James (Australian director, producer, and screenwriter), was Mia's father and her mother was actress Maureen O'Sullivan. Above information supplied by descendant, Jim Farrow.

Hill End Public School - 150 years - The full story

“Strive with Honour, 150 years of Hill End Public School, 1870-2020”



Hill End Public School is now 150 years old. After two years of planning the first intake of pupils was on 30 May 1870. Prior to this there were a number of small private schools providing education to the children of the early miners and settlers in the Tambaroora Goldfields area.

On that first day 61 boys and 54 girls, ranging in age from 3 to 15 were enrolled and pupil enrolment reached a peak of 174 during that year. The original school was soon deemed too small to cope with the growing number of students and so additions were made to the building and staff numbers also increased. Then gold mines closed, and the population moved on, taking the children with them. Education practices changed. This pattern was to be repeated over the next 150 years.

Over the years the pupil numbers have continued to fluctuate but there have always been enough children in the town and surrounding rural area to maintain the school. Since its inception, the school and the staff have always been an integral part of the local community.

In order to celebrate the sesquicentenary in a fitting manner the Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group (volunteers and descendants of these early pioneers) have been working with the staff of Hill End Public School for the last 18 months to prepare a publication showcasing this vibrant school over the last 150 years.

This is no dry history volume. Using early histories prepared by the Department of Education, and previous headmasters as a basis, our researchers have also delved deeply into the State Archives and contemporary newspapers to unearth previously unknown documents and stories to supplement these records. When official accounts were unobtainable then we turned to the community. We were thrilled with the responses which arrived via oral histories, photographs and written memoirs from ex-students, teachers, and descendants alike. There were even some that we couldn't possibly publish!

The listing of the 4500+ students (with parent or guardians' names) and teachers who attended the school over the first 100 years is a valuable record of the family members in the town where no other records may exist to demonstrate their presence. This list includes the date the student enrolled, their age, the parent or guardian's name and locality and in many instances the date (and sometimes reason) they left the school. This is a bonus for family historians and those seeking to connect their ancestors to the district.

Compiling this book has been a collaborative effort on behalf of all those involved. Many hours of work have gone into its preparation. The skills and expertise of both staff and volunteers has increased enormously and it has been an immensely gratifying experience for all.

Copies can be purchased online from [the bookshop page on our website](#). It will also be available at the Sydney Launch of the book at the Gathering at Rhodes on Saturday 1 May, or can be collected from Lorraine in Carlton, Sydney – contact her on 0408117784 or email to make arrangements.

In Hill End they are available at the Hill End Public School, or the General Store, or from Books Plus bookshop and the Visitors Centre in Bathurst. RRP is \$40. Buy Local!

They're racing...

In June 1873 the *Armidale Express and New England General Advertiser* mentioned the following incident which supposedly took place at Tambaroora in the early day of the diggings:

“As an instance of the cheapness gold is held at on a prosperous digging, we may mention that some years ago, on the occasion of races taking place at Tambaroora, a well known horse, having to carry weight, received his burden in the shape of 28lbs. of gold from the camp. At the time of the race the horse became restive, and, throwing his rider, bolted into the bush with his rich burden. The animal was eventually recovered, and the precious metal restored to its owner.”



Golden Days: When Hill End Boomed.

Memories of the early 1870s (as reported in the *Lithgow Mercury* on Friday 7 September 1928,

Mr. John W. Clinch, of Pennant Hills, says how old he is does not matter; but that he is old enough to know what he is talking about. In a recent interview (1928) he talked about the golden days of Tambaroora and Hill End where fortunes were won by the dozen. "Those were the days when there was no such thing as overtime," said Mr. Clinch. "I was a telegraph operator — they were not known as telegraphists then — and in 1869 I was appointed telegraph master at Rydal which was the terminus of the western line. Wright and Company, Heaton Brothers, and other firms had their offices at Rydal. Two years later the line extended to Bathurst. All the telegraph offices were short-handed, consequently we had no settled hours and easy times, as telegraphists have today. It was work until the work was finished, and on Sunday come in and square the cheques.



You hear people talk of the 'good old days' — but these are the good days, not those. Overtime, in the sense of being paid for work done outside stipulated hours, was hardly dreamed of, except perhaps among a few malcontents, who, I suppose, would be called red-raggers if they were alive to-day." Mr. Clinch, after 18 months at Rydal, was ordered to Tambaroora, the latest goldfield, which was. situated 3 miles beyond Hill End.

"When I arrived in Bathurst, " said Mr. Clinch, "I was told that Hill End coaches were fully booked for weeks ahead. I sought out Jim, the chief coachman. He said if I liked to ride on the back of the coach to Sofala, he would there arrange with Tom Coyle, mine host of the Royal Hotel, at Hill End, to get me a seat on another coach. Well, I felt fairly sore after bumping from Bathurst to Sofala. But I was young and prepared to enjoy anything in the way of a new experience. I was just about tired out after a walk up the famous Monkey Hill, and when at last I stood before Tom Coyle at the Royal, I was ready for cool sheets and a bed. Coyle said, 'You'll have to sleep in the stable. You'll find nice clean straw there, a rug and a pillow.' And there I slept, with several gentlemen from Sydney who had to be accommodated in the same way. Before turning in, I walked down to the telegraph office, and on my way, I saw many people making up their beds on the pathway, close to the shops.

So anxious was Mr. Burnett, the Tambaroora postmaster, to get away from the district, that early the next morning he brought in a horse and persuaded Mr. Clinch to ride behind him for the rest of the journey. [*Mr Burnett's reminiscences of his time in Tambaroora appear in our Newsletter issue no 7*] He dropped the newcomer at Tambaroora and rode off to Wellington. "I started work immediately and very soon I understood why Mr. Burnett was so anxious to be relieved," explained Mr Clinch. "I used to take Sydney-Mudgee business on the Morse and transmit Hill End telegrams on the Wheatstone alphabetical—slow work, when you consider that I had to transmit up to 100 messages a day, and seldom below 70. The business of the goldfield became so congested that I had to engage a 'pony boy' who used to gallop backwards and forwards with batches of wires, thus saving the time of re-transmission. Mr. Cracknell, our chief, visited us at last, and mercifully put Hill End on the through line, thus almost ending a telegraphic chapter of the pioneering days. Until Mr. Cracknell's visit, I was quite alone, and my hours were 8.30a.m. until 2.30a.m. next morning. All my meals, of course, were eaten while I was on duty."

No crime wave then... "I hear that there is not one store left to-day to show where Tambaroora flourished. At the time of the Hill End rush, there were 20,000 people there, so I have heard frequently. Sydney folk were desperately keen to obtain shares in claims on Hawkin's Hill where rich finds were being made. I know for a fact, that Sydney merchants sold their businesses or mortgaged them in order to buy what often proved valueless claims. Of course, I was stricken to a certain extent with the fever. I sold my claim for £50 and backed another man and lost money. But what I think is important was the absence of any crime-wave. People of all sorts from all corners of the world wandered up and down the streets of the Hill - and I never heard of even one violent crime. I repeatedly slept with £70 or £80 under my pillow, and often my door was half open. As I used to sleep like a log, to rob me would have been a simple matter. Gold escorts were never held up — and in 1873 I saw many



The first Post office at Tambaroora - the portion of building on the far right with the subsiding roof. This is where John Clinch took up his duty as Telegraph Officer and Postmaster in 1871 (A & A Photographic Co.)

valuable crushings taken without great precautions to the bank. On one occasion, I saw a cake of gold, valued at £12,000, belonging to Beyers and Holtermann, brought into the town. That lump was from one crushing."

The Bridle Track - déjà vu...



The Bridle Track along the Turon River – Sharon Shelton from her book [“Tales of the Bridle Track”](#)

Seems like the Bridle Track has been an issue with Councils for more than 100 years....This article in the *Mudgee Guardian* on 13 May 1918 is vaguely reminiscent of the struggles today to have it reopened.

“The Turon Shire, after twelve months consideration, has decided to make the Bridle Track road open to vehicular traffic. To accomplish this, it will be necessary for three men to put in about two weeks work at a washaway that took place some twelve months ago.

Yet the Turon Shire has kept a road that cost £55,000 (\$5,076,670.81 in today's \$ value) to make, closed to vehicular traffic rather than spend £20. It is to be hoped the Government will soon take a hand and see that these roads are not allowed to remain closed indefinitely where only a few pounds are required to put them in trafficable order.”

Costs have obviously risen since 1918 !!!

Bottle o!

Those old Hill End bottles that are lying around home may be worth a dollar or two. Recent sales on eBay for 2 bottles relating to Hill End demonstrate their current value.

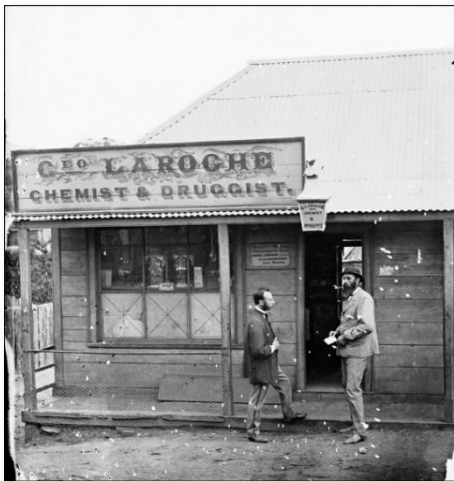


The first was one from J. Cahill, cordial manufacturer of Hill End. He appears to have only run his business there around 1872-1873, and T. C. Weir then bought Cahill's Factory, located in Belmore Street, in 1873. Both business's used only Hamilton (torpedo) bottles. This particular bottle, in very good condition, recently sold, on eBay for **\$6200**.

Another small bottle realized a proportionately much smaller price in December. This petite Chloroform bottle, just 11cm x 5 cm, came from George LaRoche's chemist shop in Clarke Street.

George La Roche appears to have been in Hill End for just a short time. He married in Lambing Flat in 1862. He then advertised that he was a chemist in George St, Sydney in Sept 1864 and February 1865, where his cure for pleuropneumonia in cattle was most successful.

Before this, his remedy had apparently cured cattle in the Northern Districts, (Including Singleton).



A testimonial in the *Bega Gazette* of September 1872 (and other issues) mentions that he was in Hill End, Tambaroora on 20 Sept 1870. His shop in Clarke Street shows he was a chemist & druggist when the A&A Photographic Co. recorded the buildings along the main shopping street of Hill End. There are 2 photos, one showing him out the front of his shop. The other image shows a woman [possibly his wife, Sarah Ann] at the front of the shop.



In December 1874 he advertised in the "*Miners' Advocate and Northumberland Recorder* on 19 December 1874 that he was formerly of Lambing Flat, Singleton, Hill End & Tambaroora and was then temporarily in Greta. He died in June 1890.

Populate or Perish...oh dear....

Readers Have Their Say in the *Truth*, 5 December 1943.

“As the father of five young children, may I seek space in your popular columns to hurl a brick at our Labor Government? I consider my wife to be a good manager, her library and a picture show once a month being her only sources of recreation. I hand her £5 a week, and to make provision for her coming baby she was obliged to sell her sewing machine. Babies' clothes have gone up 75 per cent, and all other children's clothes have gone up 60 per cent. I was looking forward to a substantial war loading to tide me over, but the professors say living costs have fallen, when everybody else in the Commonwealth knows they have risen. My advice to young married couples is not to heed the cry of 'populate or perish.' The miserable endowment would not provide each child with more than sufficient apples at the present prices. Endowment included when our next child arrives, we will have 12s 6d each to exist on after rent is paid. Signed Armidale.”

Diary of an epidemic – The Spanish (pneumonic) influenza in Hill End

The following entries have been extracted from newspaper reports of the period.

24 October 1918: Up to the present Hill End has escaped the influenza epidemic and it has not been necessary to call in the medical officer for some time.

14 Feb 1919: Bathurst – only 56 cases of influenza have occurred in three weeks in the metropolitan area – showing that the epidemic is well in hand and proving beyond a doubt that many of the restrictions urged for the country are not only unnecessary but ridiculous.

11 July 1919: Hill End - Influenza of ordinary type is common locally.

18 July 1918: Influenza is raging at Hill End and the greatest difficulty is being experienced in keeping the mines in operation.

23 July 1919: Hill End- Funeral of the first pneumonic influenza victim of the district. Mr Thomas Lyle, a well-known resident.

25 July 1919: Hill End- During the past week a very severe outbreak of ordinary influenza has occurred locally, there being a patient in almost every household. The deaths have occurred lately of Mr. Lyle, senr., Mr. W. Swannell and Mr. E. James.

31 July 1919: Hill End - Hospital Committee employs 2 extra nurses at £4/4/- a week as there are six cases in the hospital.

6 August 1919: the influenza outbreak has abated in Hill End, but is very severe in Tambaroora, where there are cases in all houses except four. There are at present eight cases in the hospital. The death occurred yesterday at Tambaroora of Mr. William Eldridge. As a result of the flu the mines have been practically idle. The school, which was closed, will be reopened today.

7 August 1919: Hill End - There are still a number of serious cases. The Risby brothers (Messrs. A. and G. Risby) are putting up great fight. Messrs. R. T. and F. Yates are also having a bad time. Mr. J. Aylin had a very bad turn last week. His condition is very much improved to-day. There are many who have come through the prevailing epidemic on the right side but are still very weak.

3 September 1919: Hill End- The Influenza outbreak has passed away and the mines are almost working normal again. During the epidemic 91 outpatients and 14 inpatients were treated by the local hospital, besides a number who did not require anything but home nursing.

13 February 1920: During 1919 hospital treated 26 in-patients, (16 males and 10 females). Of these 18 recovered, six were relieved, and two died; 229 out-patients, (130 males and 99 females) were treated, of whom 203 recovered, 20 were relieved and four died, this leaving two under treatment at end of year. Relief outside treatment was given to 183 district persons.

An early Library at Tambaroora, literally speaking.

During our research for the Hill End School history, we came across a number of interesting newspaper articles that predated the school. In looking for any mention of “Libraries” we discovered that Edward Long, storekeeper from Tambaroora was a man ahead of his time, or an entrepreneur... No doubt, in the early days, the miners and settlers would have brought one or two treasured books with them (as well as a Bible) when they journeyed to the goldfields. These books would have been read and reread and possibly even memorised in the few leisure hours available to them. Then perhaps they swapped them with their colleagues until they were so well used that they fell apart.

Edward Long, saw the benefit of enticing people to visit his shop by instigating a Circulating Library in it in 1854. This may well have been the first one in the district to cater to the needs of the ever growing population.

His advertisement, promoting this initiative, in the *Bathurst Free Press* on 23 September 1854 describes his collection: “Edward Long begs to inform the inhabitants of Tambaroora and the adjoining diggings that he has opened a circulating library containing at the present time about 2000 volumes: the greater care has been taken in the selection of the works which, on inspection, will be found to consist of the choicest writings of the most popular and eminent authors of the day, as James Bulwer, Dickens, Sue, Marryat, Cooper, etc, etc.

E. L. also notifies with pleasure that he has made arrangements by which the GREATEST NOVELTIES IN LITERATURE will be forwarded to him as they arrive in Sydney, by which means he hopes always to have on hand a stock of books from which the most fastidious reader may be enabled to make a pleasing selection. For terms and other particulars, apply to EDWARD LONG, Storekeeper, Tambaroora. “



Edward Long - Storekeeper

Edward conducted his businesses in Tambaroora during the early years from 1854 until 1865, when he declared bankruptcy and his estate was sold off. His liabilities were £1449 13s 1d and his assets were valued at £1239 5s. It is possible that he saw the writing on the wall as by this time Hill End was becoming the business centre of the district and the population was gradually moving south as more work was available with the opening of Hawkins Hill mines.



During his time at Tambaroora, he was the victim of a number of burglaries and crimes. One of the most unusual was the theft of 10 dozen eggs...

James Darby was indicted at the Bathurst Quarter Sessions on 22 October 1853 for burglariously entering the house of Mr. Edward Long at Tambaroora on 24 of September 1853, and stealing ten dozen eggs, the property of the Long. The prisoner pleaded not guilty.

On the night in question after Long was in bed, he heard the prisoner (whom he knew) outside the store calling out "Johnny Long, Johnny Long." He did not get up, or make any reply, and the next morning he found that the door of the store which had been secured by placing against it a dozen spades, a keg and a lot of sundries, had been removed, and a quantity of eggs taken away from a case near the entrance. He went on the road towards Darby's house and when about halfway there he came upon "the track of the inside of eggs" which had been broken on the road. He followed the track which led him into the prisoner's house, who when taxed with stealing the eggs said he knew nothing about them. Sergeant Cassidy then went into the prisoner's hut and found a hat which was besmeared on the inside with the yolk of eggs. There was also some chaff on it similar to the chaff in the box from which the eggs were taken.

Verdict— guilty. Sentence — two years' hard labour on the roads. A lot of work for some broken eggs! And brings new meaning for the phrase "egg on your face!"

A few years later a more significant and daring robbery occurred at his store. It appears that Mr. Long, on getting up in the morning in question, had his suspicions aroused by finding the back door open, and a slab removed from the back of the store. His worst fears were soon realized by discovering that a large iron chest, containing upwards of £600, 13 ounces of gold dust, and a quantity of valuable papers had been carried away during the night. The chest was soon afterwards discovered in the bush almost 100 yards from the house, where it had been broken open and the contents taken from it. No clue was discovered likely to lead to the detection of the thieves.

Social life in Hill End

Balls in Hill End were a regular activity, a wonderful chance for the community to get together, and raise funds to support a good cause. It was also an excellent opportunity for the ladies to frock up and show their dressmaking skills. No doubt, many hours were spent at the Singer sewing machine constructing the latest fashion item or altering an earlier one to make it look like a new creation. In October 1912 a Hill End lady wrote to a friend in Mudgee announcing that there was a fine opening in the mining township for a dressmaker. The population had increased wonderfully of late and there was no one to cope with the demand for dresses. She suggested that one of the local Mudgee "artists in dress material" to establish a branch there.

While there were none as such recorded in the electoral rolls for the district for 1913, by 1915 there were at least 2 ladies, Emily Serena Evans and Elizabeth Jane Natrass who called themselves "dressmakers" on the rolls. Perhaps the ladies of the district favoured dressmakers in Bathurst such as Madame Eugenie or Mrs Aylin in Bathurst to assist them make a stylish entrance.

The following detailed descriptions provided to the *Bathurst Times* on 29 May 1913 could only have been provided by a correspondent with a close interest in the fashion world. While we are still familiar with the terms of "silk, muslin, velvet, lace etc" there are a number of descriptive words that seem to have long passed out of usage today.

A ball was held in the Royal Hall, Hill End, on the 23rd inst., in aid of the hospital, when £10 was taken. About 32 couples were present. The music was supplied by Mrs. Dove, Miss O'Connell, Miss G Plummer, and Messrs. Linton, Bennett, Natrass, Brailey, and Maris. Following is a list of the dresses : — Mrs. Plummer, black silk; Mrs. Groves, black voile; Mrs. Macryannis, black silk with cream yoke; Mrs. Wren, black merv silk; Mrs. Cox, blue voile and lace trimmings; Mrs. Scantlebury, pink silk, overdress of ninon; Mrs. Williams, black velvet; Mrs. L. Weir, cream voile; Mrs. Dove, buttercup satin, overdress of black lace; Mrs. Fletcher, grey voile, blue silk trimmings; Miss Millen, white silk; Miss Mullins, white muslin; Miss O'Connell, pink silk; Miss Williams, prunelle velvet; Miss M. Flynn, palette silk, overdress of ninon, Miss G. Plummer, blue muslin; Miss Denman, blue muslin; Miss Jessie Millen, white silk; Miss Morgan, tussore silk; Miss J. O'Riley, cream silk; Miss Evans, grey silk and oriental trimmings; Miss Cooke, blue silk; Miss Eldridge, white muslin; Miss Vera Flynn, cream voile.



Roller Skating.

It seems hard to imagine, but roller skating was a popular pastime in Hill End in the late 1870s. All that was needed was a large hall-like building and a supply of roller skates.

In Europe during the 19th century, leisure activities such as skating concerned only a small fraction of the society, the "leisure class" who did not work but who benefitted from the work of others. During this period, the number of skating-rink exploded throughout the world. In such a cosmopolitan environment as Hill End one could imagine that there was no such division of classes. Everybody in Hill End worked!



Vintage skates c1870

In August 1877 Louis Beyers, in his usual public spirited manner provided such a space and arranged to have the floor of his hall put into first rate order. The residents looked forward to much fun in the spectacle of a lot of enthusiasts making a start with no knowledge of the accomplishments needed and no one to give advice. Opinions were forthcoming that the only known means of stopping after making a start, was either to fall down or run up against somebody or something! Varying one's course appeared to be left to the discretion of the skates. It was anticipated that experience would come with practice and doubtless the practice would be amusing – to the lookers-on!



Despite the lack of experience (or finesse) the Skating Rink was opened on a Saturday night in early August. It provided great amusement to both the participants and the onlookers who exhibited utter disregard to falls and the most perfect ignorance of skating in the abstract, and rinking in particular. It appeared that all were highly delighted with the proceedings. Being midwinter it is possible that the number of layers of clothes needed in Hill End at such a time of year may have provided some level of protection to the participants.

When not being used for skating Beyers' Hall was used for other purposes, including political speeches, a concert in aid of the Roman Catholic Presbytery in December 1877 and a little later a ball at the same venue raised funds in aid of the Hospital. In 1881, the well-known 50-mile walker, P. M'Dermott undertook to cover 50 miles in 10 hours. This task was accomplished in Mr. Ackermann's Skating Rink, (possibly associated with the Club House Hotel, which Michael Ackermann had just taken over) which measured 47 laps to the mile. M'Dermott accomplished his feat in 9 hours 43 minutes.

As time went on, the inhabitants lost interest in the craze and the Rink was utilized for other purposes. However, it was still known as such in 1893 when 2 local Members of Parliament visited Hill End and met with their constituents to provide provided a lengthy account of their recent doings.

Our volunteer projects.

A district like Hill End and Tambaroora, with so much rich history is a goldmine for those searching for their ancestors. We are so fortunate that there are so many resources now available for us to access. However, sometimes they need a little bit of work before they are "user-ready".

One of the most important aspects of any resource is an index of what it contains. Such a document can save countless hours of trolling through documents and articles. A few of our volunteers have been busy of late and Alison has now updated the **index to our HEATGG Newsletters** and it is now online at on the [Newsletter page](#), and covers the last 27 issues which are also available online. It runs to 197 pages if printed out, so it has saved a tree by going digital!

After indexing the School newsletters Annette then took on the job of indexing the **reproduction copies of the Hill End & Tambaroora Times newspapers** that were published between October 1986 and August 1988. Providing a snapshot of life in Hill End during this period, these newspaper format broadsheets contain a mixture of old articles from the early newspapers and reports on more contemporary issues that affected the residents of the town during the Bicentennial period.

Our typist, par excellence, Verna is ploughing through a very valuable document, compiled back in 1988, which records the numerous owners of the **Sections and Allotments, and Portions of land in Hill End & Tambaroora** from the 1870s or so, until 1987. We hold a photocopy of this original document, but it was only searchable by the property details. Once the retyping is completed it will be keyword searchable and so we will have an index of all the names in the document. While not every block is described the material has been sourced from Crown Plans and Land & Property information and will make it much easier to place your ancestors on their block of land if they appear in the index.

The results of all this hard work will be on display at the Annual Gathering at Rhodes on 1 May 2021.

Research queries

Over the past few months, we have received enquiries from the following researchers seeking information on their families, etc. If you can help, or are connected in some way, they would love to hear from you.

Cali Dunlevy	Her Dunlevy great grandparents and ancestors lived in Wattle Flat and Sofala	wildazurebutterfly@gmail.com
Trish Leonard	Golding Sisters	Trishwish2012@hotmail.com
Greig Williams	Chinese Yav Yen (English name Thomas Yavion snr)	meroo642850@gmail.com
Noel William Frappell	Frappell, Blyton, Foscett	noel.frappell@gmail.com
Philip Kent	Family of Hugh and Ann Kent arrived in Hill End 1873	philip.kent@hotmail.com
Ilija Sutalo	Carazole & families from Dalmatia, Slavonia, Croatia who lived in area before 1900.	ilijasutalo@gmail.com
Emma Zatz	Boesenberg family	ezatz@ozemail.com.au
Elisabeth & Robert MacFarlane	Bellvinah Beyers married Ernest Cowling	elisabethandrobert@gmail.com
Michelle Hickey	Hickey Family (1855 – 1935)	michellechickey@gmail.com
Leslie Brian Letcher	Letcher family	chasse23@bigpond.com
Marieetta Ayres	Ayres & Walpole	mayres@bigpond.net.au
Brenda Turner	English family & mine owned by William English	brendaandallan53@gmail.com

Coming events

The calendar is fast filling up! Put these in your diary. Please check our Facebook Page in case there are any last minute changes due to Covid.



Saturday 1 May – 10am – 5pm: The **Annual Gathering** at Rhodes in Sydney – see all the details on the last page of this newsletter or [on our website](#).

Sunday 9 May – (To be confirmed) - Pillars of Bathurst Commemoration – Historians Harry & Brian Hodge to be honoured with a plaque in the Macquarie River Park in Bathurst

Saturday 22 May – Hill End Public School 150th Celebrations & Reunion – Open Day – Dinner at Hill End Lodge. Bookings: Phone (02) 6337 8265 between 9am & 2.30pm. or email hillendp.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

Saturday 5 June – 3pm – 5pm - Bathurst Library - “Strive with Honour -Hill End Public School” Book Launch and author talk.

Monday 7 June – 10.15am – Monday History author talk - Mudgee Library - “Strive with Honour -Hill End Public School”.

Easter Saturday 3 April – 9.30am – 4pm - Hill End Easter Market — [See our website](#) for full details. New stallholders welcome. Please [contact Lorraine](#) to make a stall booking.

If you are visiting Hill End and want to see what Daphne may have on your family, then: The Hill End Family History Research Room is now OPEN only by appointment

For enquiries and to make an appointment please contact Daphne a few days beforehand

Email: hillendfh@y7mail.com

Phone 0429 335 627

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



Contact details for the Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group

Lorraine Purcell

12 Grantham St, Carlton NSW 2218

Mobile: 0408117784

Please leave a message if I am unable to answer the phone as I may be out of reception area.

Email: heatgg@yahoo.com.au

Website: <http://www.heatgg.org.au>

The 1st May 2021 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 12 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. The launch of "Strive with Honour" will also happen at this time.

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 enough shelter if the weather is inclement.

Further enquiries can be made to Lorraine Purcell

0408117784. Please leave a message if no answer or via email to heatgg@yahoo.com.au

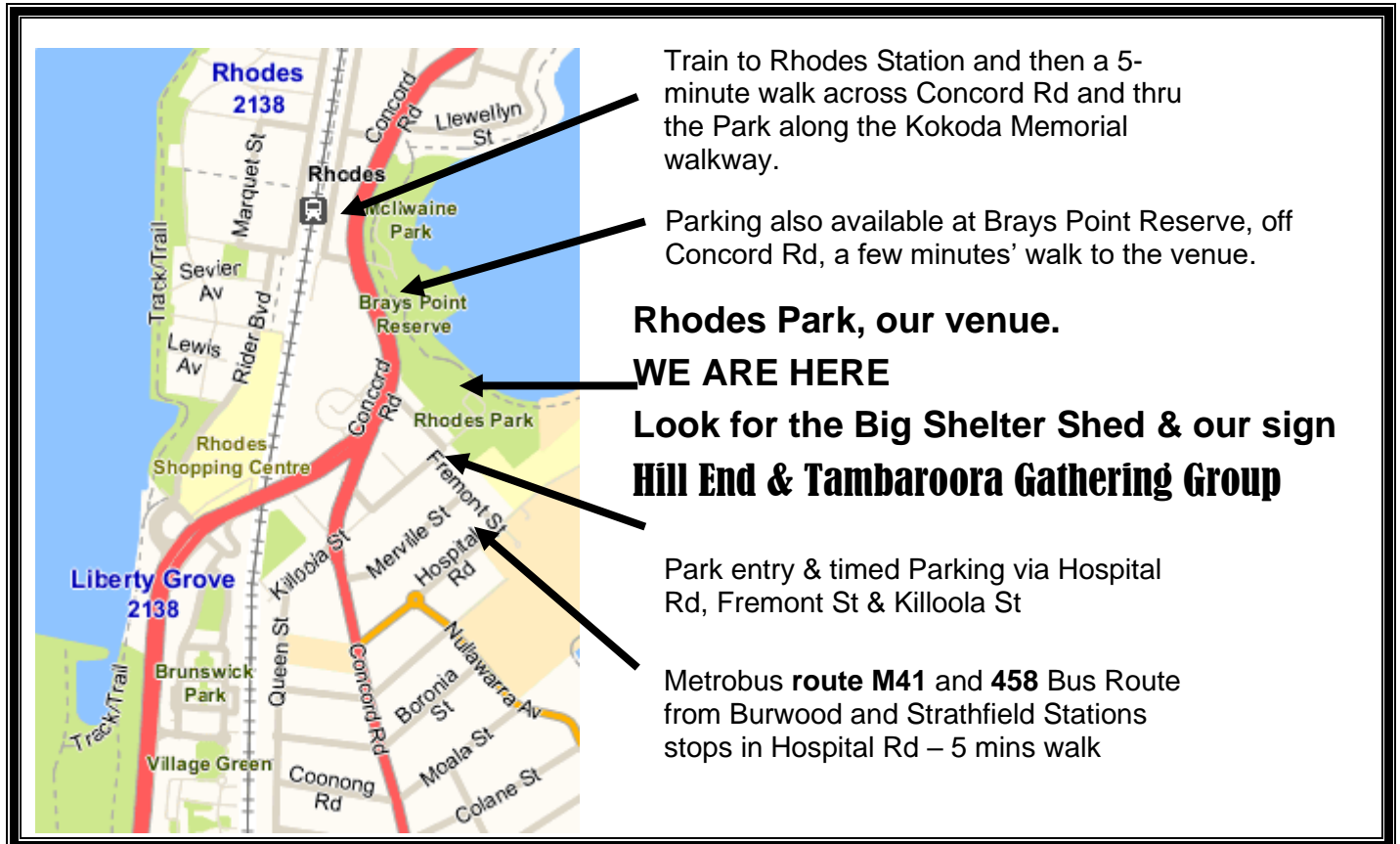


Hill End & Tamberoora Gathering Group 2021 Gathering Information.

**Rhodes Rotary Park
Killoola St, Concord**

Saturday 1 May 2021 from 10am until 4pm

(Adjacent to the Kokoda Memorial Walkway and Brays Bay)



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 0408 117 784
or email heatgg@yahoo.com.au**