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Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group

Newsletter

Issue 31, February 2024

Dear Hill Enders & Tambaroorians

A lot has happened in the Gathering world since the last newsletter in February 2022. Apologies for the absence of this regular source of Hill End research and updates to our activities until now. For much of 2022 both Dennis and I both had health issues which are now thankfully well on the improve. However, it has taken a bit of wind out of my sails and the regular undertakings sometimes take a bit longer to achieve.

It was good to see so many turn up for our 2023 Gathering held on 4 March 2023.



Amongst others we had representatives from the following families:

Ackermann	Deadman	Ettinger	Hocking	Maris	Starr	Warry
Alder	Drakeford	Fitzgerald	Langton	Northey	Trevena	Wells
Bryant	Dumble	Foreman	Lawson	Rayner	Wainwright	Whittaker
Charters	Eldridge	Gaynon	Ley	Risby	Walpole	
Dagger	Ellis	Goodwin	Longmore	Stapley	Wardman	

You can view the above photo and other event photos on our website Gallery page (bit.ly/heatgggallery).

The Group was incorporated in 2021 and at the annual Gathering in March 2023 we held our first AGM where the new committee was elected. This committee has been most supportive, and I have been able to share out the load to these willing volunteers who have been learning the ropes. I am very grateful that they have been able to call on their personal skills and experience to ensure the ongoing smooth running of the Group.

2024 Annual Gathering

Our next Annual Gathering will be held on Saturday 2 March 2024 at 10 am at the usual venue: Rhodes Rotary Park, Killoola St, Concord West. We hope that you will see this as a great opportunity to round up your family and Hill End friends and join us for a day of yarning, researching, and catching up. We have a good number of new members added to our Group and it will be lovely to meet them face-to-face. Gather the distant branches of the family together and catch up in an informal picnic setting. Come along and 'meet the neighbours of your ancestors'. Further details on the last pages of this newsletter or on the website at *bit.ly/GettingToRhodes*

There will be less reference material available at Rhodes this time as much of it has been relocated to our Family History Centre in Hill End. However, we will have a great selection of Hill End related books and Hill End 150 memorabilia available for sale this time. We love cash but will also have credit card facilities available too.

Our New Committee

Convener: Lorraine Purcell (*info@heatgg.org.au* or *heatgg@yahoo.com.au*) Mobile: 0408117784 Co-convener and Family History Centre: Sharon Shelton.(*familyhistorycentre@heatgg.org.au*)

Secretary: Barbara Burnett (secretary@heatgg.org.au)
Treasurer: Barbara Burnett (treasurer@heatgg.org.au)
Research Officer: Helen Wood (info@heatgg.org.au)

Membership Secretary: Debbie Court (membership@heatgg.org.au)

Publicity Officer: Karen Bates (publicity@heatgg.org.au)

Family History Centre Coordinator: Michelle Brooks (familyhistorycentre@heatgg.org.au)

Online Bookshop Officer: Alison Briggs (sales@heatgg.org.au)
Committee Members: Beatrice Brooks, (committee@heatgg.org.au)

Community Market co-ordinators (ex officio): Ian and Julie Hodge (markets@heatgg.org.au)

Please feel free to contact them if you have any questions about their area of responsibility.

Many thanks to Debbie Court for assisting with the preparation of this newsletter - Lorraine.

Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is given to all Members of the Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group that the Annual General Meeting of the Gathering Group will be held on **Saturday 2 March 2024 at 12 noon** at Rhodes Rotary Park, Killoola St, Concord West during the annual Gathering. All Members are invited.

Lorraine Purcell	Barbara Burnett		
Convener	Secretary		



We are also always keen to encourage new volunteers who feel that they have skills or an interest in the work of the group to nominate to join the committee, or just help out when they can. Now is a good opportunity to consider whether you have time to join us on some of our very interesting ventures.

We are especially looking for members who can help at our Family History Centre in Hill End, on weekends or during the week. If you have an interest in the family or local history of the area and enjoy learning more and sharing your knowledge, then we would love to hear from you.

If you live 'locally' – within an hour's drive from Hill End and can spare a day or so once a month this is a great opportunity to help us out. Basic caravan accommodation can be provided at a very nominal cost too. Contact Lorraine for more details (0408117784 or email heatgg@yahoo.com.au)

REMINDER: change of email or address contact details

Please let us know if you change your email or contact details – we don't want you to miss out on our notifications or newsletters.

A simple way is to reply to the email you receive from *membership@heatgg.org.au*. At the bottom of these emails you will find a link 'Update' to send updates or 'Unsubscribe' to send an email to let us know you no longer wish to receive Hill End and Tambaroora Gathering Group emails.

If you know someone who usually receives our emails, can you check that they have received this one. Many internet providers are stopping their email service, and these email addresses are no longer going through to the recipient. Thank you.

Debbie Court - Membership Secretary, Hill End and Tambaroora Gathering Group

Volunteer news

Awarding our volunteers – worth their weight in gold!



Many of you who have been following up your Hill End & Tambaroora ancestors will have had reason to communicate with Daphne Shead in Hill End. After devoting more than 20 years to helping those with long connections to the district, she has now retired and is enjoying a well-deserved break from her research work.

Daphne commenced with her own family history and then realised that she was connected to numerous other families in the district. She started to compile a database which grew to more than 55,000 people, many with 6 or so generations with connections to the region.

Daphne established Hill End Family History and her research helped hundreds of people find their ancestral connections, via her website, phone, and email. These descendants have been generous with sharing their information also and this has also been collated into a large collection of folders and files. Visitors to the Family History Centre can freely browse and extract information and images to add to their own trees.



In 2010 she collated and authored a a well-received book on the women of Hill End (Hill End Heroines & Tambaroora Treasures). Daphne, despite considerable health issues at times, also volunteered at the Centre on Wednesdays and Saturdays whenever possible.

In early 2023 Daphne hung up her mouse and keyboard to take a well-earned retirement. Her contribution to visitor enhancement and experience in Hill End is legendary. Her local knowledge and historical work are much appreciated and will be treasured for generations to come. For this work, she was recognised by the NSW Centre for Volunteering as a 2023 Central West Senior Nominee and in early October was presented with a certificate acknowledging this. If you would like to send her a personal message she can be reached via email at *bitofheaven@y7mail.com*





On 15 August those living locally in Hill End were able to show their appreciation at a special High Tea hosted by HEATGG. It was held at the 24 Carrot Café in Hill End. Jeannie and her team went all out at the function which was enjoyed by all who attended.



The History Council of NSW Annual History Awards celebrate history in all its diverse forms. From the history makers and its thinkers to collective memory and multicultural history, the Awards and Prizes support and acknowledge contributions towards historical practice and theory, through exploring the past to engage and inform the memories and historical narrative of present and future communities.

More Chinese research success

We are proud to announce that our volunteer, Juanita Kwok, has been awarded *The Max Kelly Award* of \$500 which is given annually to an early career historian for a work of excellence in any aspect of Australian history. The Award was established as a tribute to Associate Professor Maxwell John Kelly (1935-1996), the first elected President of the History Council.

HISTORY COUNCIL OF NSW

MAX KELLY AWARD 2022

Dr Juanita Kwok

For her article

The Lambing Flat Riots and the Chinese
Quest for Compensation
Proudly appraised by Mr Geeffery James

Dr Juanita Kwok was the winner of the 2022 Max Kelly Award is for her article *The Lambing Flat Riots and the Chinese Quest for Compensation*. The Lambing Flat riots, in which Chinese miners were violently driven off a goldfield is a well-known incident in Australia's history – particularly as it also marked the start of anti-Chinese immigration

laws. What Juanita Kwok uncovers from her assiduous research is a rich history of Chinese agency and persistence in seeking justice and legal redress for their losses. Indeed, Juanita Kwok puts the June 1861 riots into a longer context of European harassment of Chinese miners across the goldfields, and includes the surprising efforts of those miners to use the law to fight back.



While their compensation claims ultimately went largely unpaid, Kwok demonstrates that savvy miners were responsible for getting a hearing for those claims in the first place. In doing so, Kwok also reveals a rich archive of sources on individuals and families connected to these events – an archive that will help enrich the work of all those involved in recovering the oft-neglected multicultural – and racist – past of Australia. Read her full article here: bit.ly/ChineseResearchKwok

Taking a sea change...



Lorraine's garden in Ackermann Cottage. Photo: Di Greenhaw

Many of our members may recall visiting the beautifully restored Ackerman Cottage in Hill End. Lorraine (nee Ackermann) and her husband Ken Miller lovingly restored and furnished the old family home over many years, bringing it back to life as their retirement project. Ken passed away some years ago, but Lorraine stayed on, becoming a much-loved part of the Hill End community. She opened her home to visitors on Open Days and welcomed tour groups etc showing how the ancestors lived 150 years ago. She was an ardent supporter of the HEATGG and welcomed a myriad of Ackermann descendants to her home over the years.

After 27 or so years of cold winters and hot summers, Lorraine has now chosen a sea change for health reasons and is moving to sunny Queensland. She will be sadly missed but her Hill End legacy will be the beautifully restored cottage, which remains in the Ackermann family's hands. Lorraine will certainly be back to visit and keep an eye on it. Well done, our best wishes go with you, Lorraine!

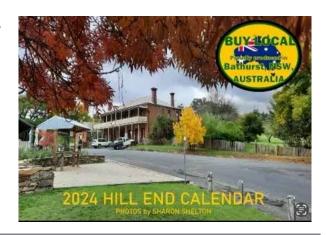
New items on our SHOP page

Our updated website bookshop – now just called **SHOP** bit.ly/HEATGGSHOP – has some brand – new items. As well as books we have a small number of Hill End 150 memorabilia and collectable items available.

2024 CALENDAR (Just a few left)

The 2024 Hill End Calendar – Sharon Shelton has prepared a 2024 calendar that will last all year and tide you over until January 2025. How's that? – 1 month extra, free!

Order your copy now from bit.ly/HEATGGSHOP



Our Activities

Hill End 150

Our major undertaking for 2022 was Hill End 150.

At a well-attended community meeting in Hill End in February 2022, I was able to present a proposal to celebrate a momentous day in the history of the village, the 150th anniversary of the unearthing of the 'Holtermann Nugget'. This was excitedly accepted and so plans progressed.



On 22 October 2022 'Hill End 150' celebrated the village's golden hey-day. The community inspired event took us back to 1872 when the world's largest gold specimen, the 'Holtermann Nugget' (or Specimen) saw the light of day and was celebrated along with the opening of many local buildings that still stand today, including St Paul's Presbyterian Church, the School and the Court House. To truly gain a sense of what it was like to live in a thriving village 150 years ago, festival goers enjoyed a raft of entertainment and activities themed around the town's gold rush era.

The winners on the day were the 50 or so volunteers who were involved in staffing venues or preparing material for the event. We couldn't have done it without their willing participation. Some were local and others travelled to the area, supporting food outlets, and staying at local accommodation venues and campgrounds or with relatives and friends. Some who could not attend also assisted with projects remotely.

Our special website, professionally presented by local volunteers Cara George and Melissa George wasoutstanding and provided all the information the visitors needed. Over 700 visitors registered to attend and many more just turned up on the day – even a few rain showers didn't deter them. Local businesses in the town received a great post-Covid boost, with all accommodation booked out and the local food and beverage outlets enjoying one of their best and busiest days for some years.



Some of our volunteer working party outside our Family History Centre - Mission Control.

Numerous historic houses and public buildings were open throughout the day and visitors appreciated the opportunity to wander around the village and see inside venues that were usually 'out of bounds'. Bald Hill Mine tours were fully booked and Merlin's Village free nighttime tours with Peter Solness enjoyed great support.



Children were well catered for and the Great Hill End Gold Rush saw over 80 enthusiastic young 'miners' searching for gold nuggets and trading them in at the Assay Office for chocolate 'sovereigns'. The town centre roads were closed and Peter

Swain's Welcome to Country smoking ceremony and Justin Buchta's CircusBox performance was enjoyed by young and old alike. Photo exhibitions were well attended in the Hill End Art Gallery and the Sacred Heart Church.



A concrete replica of the Holterman Specimen/Nugget was presented to the Village, and it now stands proud in Lyle Park opposite the Royal Hall. Made 50 years ago by local historian, Harry Hodge, it was used in the 1972 recreation of the unearthing

of the specimen. It was unveiled by Harry's daughter Bev Hewlett and assisted by her grandson.

assisted by her grandson.

A home movie still of the 1972 centenary

event along with a letter from Harry to his wife concerning the cement specimen, was able to confirm the provenance of this object.





The final act for the day was a Bush Dance in the 122-year-old Royal Hall hosted by the Southern Cross Bush Band ... and we all fell into bed – EXHAUSTED! until the following morning when Kim Deacon and Robyn Godfrey presented a soothing Sunday Recovery Concert in the Sacred Heart Church.

For a good look at all our activities on the day check out our gallery of photos, taken by Di Greenhaw *bit.ly/HE150Festival*

Hill End Analogue – November 2023

Hill End Arts Council held an amazing event over the weekend of 18–19 November. Hill End Analogue showcased celebrated and connected contemporary analogue photographic artists with a love of black and white roll film from regional, rural, remote, and metropolitan Australia. Images from wet plate collodion to digitally coloured examples of the Holtermann Collection were artistically displayed in the village historic venues. Much of thework displayed demonstrated the utilisation of historic or alternative photographic techniques in contemporary settings.

We were very proud that one of our members, Chris Dingle, exhibited his colorization work on a selection of the Holtermann images.

The image (left) on display at Hill End Analogue was commissioned by the Emigration Museum in Hamburg to be part of their new Exhibition 'The Holtermann Story'. Utilising Dr Christoph Hein's publication Australia 1872. It showcases Holtermann's journey to Australia as an emigrant and his life as a miner in Hill End, photographer and Parliamentarian in Sydney.

Chris Dingle's image was converted to a diorama and will become part of their permanent exhibition.

Check out the Exhibition at **ballinstadt.de/en/**



Chris Dingle's coloured version

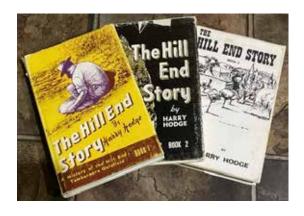


The A&A photo as a life size diorama with Dr Chris Hein on the left

The Hill End Story – Harry Hodge - Republished at last!

Mention 'Hill End' 'Tambaroora' and "history" in one sentence and for those of a more senior generation, the name Harry Hodge immediately comes to mind.

His comprehensive historical trilogy, *The Hill End Story* initially published between 1965 and 1974 has been out of print for many years. Copies are enthusiastically sought in second-hand bookshops and online auctions and those searching out their Hill End ancestors will pay varying prices for copies to complete their set.



Now, good things come to them that wait ... Harry's daughter, Beverly Hewlett has recently had the complete set of 3 volumes reprinted in a limited edition of 100 copies. It is a paperback set and is exclusively available from the Hill End Family History Centre in Hill End, BooksPlus in Bathurst and here *bit.ly/HEATGGSHOP* at the Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group website. Purchase the set of 3 for \$90 plus \$20 (P&P) or \$35 per volume and \$12 (P&P).

Alfred Harold Hodge was born in Hill End in 1904 and despite moving away for education and a career as a primary school teacher and then as headmaster, he remained passionate about the history of the district all his life.

Once he retired in 1966, he continued to live in Newcastle but spent several months of each year living in the surviving section of the family home in Hill End (Tiverton) in which he was born. He listened to the narratives of many of the older residents and collected their stories. He spent many hours researching original records and documents and pored over newspaper articles, consuming many hours in the Mitchell and State Library of NSW.

He was awarded an MBE in the 1971 Queen's Birthday Honours List for 'service to the community. Valuable contribution to Australian history, notably in the Hill End area'. His books include a thriller, *Death in the morning*. A children's story, *Warrumbungle the Wallaby*, and *The Hill End Story* (Books 1, 2, and 3) and *A Guide to historic Hill End*.

The Hill End Story – a brief summary

Book 1 of the *Hill End Story* tells of the rise of Tambaroora and Hill End in the second part of the 19th century when their riches drew tens of thousands of people to the stark plateau north of the Turon. When Hodge wrote this work in 1965 Hill End had one shop and one hotel. In 1872 it had a mile of shops. There were 28 hotels in the town itself and 52 within a three-mile radius. The neighbouring town of Tambaroora had at least 40 business houses and 10 hotels. Its population included 1,500 Chinese. Today, all that remains of old Tambaroora is a few solitary houses.



Here and there, in both towns, are traces of their past. A miniature ridge shows the line of a vanished garden fence. A mound is all that remains of a wattle and daub cottage chimney. A depression indicates the cellar of a vanished hotel. A few of the old buildings remain in Hill End and there has been no intrusion of newer ones. A photographer named Beaufoy Merlin has left in the Holtermann Collection all the pictorial evidence necessary for that reconstruction.

This book, the first of three volumes, records the story of Hill End and Tambaroora as they were when their streets were thronged with people who came from the ends of the earth in answer to the magic call of gold. This volume deals mainly with people. Their lives, in an isolated area with a rigorous climate and few of the amenities of civilisation, form part of the pattern of our national development for most of them remained in Australia to play their parts in that development.

Book 2 carried on the story of the famous gold field at the time when there was mining activity along practically the whole of the 24 kilometres stretch from Chambers Creek north to Dun Dun. It dealt first with the techniques of alluvial and reef mining and tells how they were applied in the Hill End district. It recorded individual mining operations in detail because mining was the sole raison d'etre of the sister towns of Hill End and Tambaroora,

as well as the lesser aggregations of population along the line of reef. The mines of the fabulous Golden Quarter Mile, the 'jewellers' shops' of the area were dealt with in detail as well as those which for a variety of reasons, were not successful.

The life of the people on the gold field was again touched on, particularly with reference to the dauntless 'Women of the West' who braved the unknown and stood staunchly by their menfolk in their stern struggle for existence. Vignettes of outstanding characters who left their marks on the field in some way or another were included, and the Aborigines of the area came under brief notice.

An appendix containing the names and years of birth of over 3,000 people who were born on the field between 1856 and 1893 was included. It should be of interest to those whose ancestors were natives of the district. A second appendix lists the names of some of the people who were residents in the eve of the boom era.

Illustrations include prints from the famous Holterman collection, the work of Beaufoy Merlin and Charles Bayliss in the period 1871 to 73, maps, diagrams, and recent photographs.

Book 3 dealt with the greatly diminished town as the author saw it in his boyhood. It was a remote, isolated, inward-looking community, cut off from ready contact with larger towns by many miles of mountainous roads. Its story is therefore one in which the impact of world events came second-hand through the newspapers, and the near horizon imprisoned many of its people for the whole of their lives.

These books have been reprinted in a limited edition of 100 copies of each volume. Now is your chance to purchase all 3 or individual volumes to complete your sets.

We also have a range of other books and memorabilia relating to the district on the shop page of our website **bit.ly/HEATGGSHOP**

Bridle Track now open ... again

The old and the new – from Facebook

The Bridle Track reopened in March 2023 after 13 years of closure at Monaghan's Bluff. It has been well patronised since but is still only open to 4WD vehicles. Bypassing Monaghan's Bluff the new road has been well set out and provides a great view of the river below.



This drone photo from Karen Medcalf's Facebook page dramatically illustrates both the old and the new roads. It is by far the best way to capture the grandeur of the bluff. The old road was truly an engineering feat, considering the conditions that were encountered along the way.

The journey takes about 2 hours from Hill End to Bathurst or vice versa allowing for stops along the way to admire the scenery and engineering expertise. There are still some

sections where you may also have to give way to other traffic travelling in the opposite direction so be prepared to just pull over and enjoy the experience.

If you plan to camp anywhere along the Track, please remember the 'golden rules':

- Extinguish your campfires fully.
- Take ALL your rubbish home with you.
- Stick to the track and don't enter private fenced properties.

Sharon Shelton has prepared a revised map of the Track which is available from our Family History Centre in Hill End or via email to *my.ssart.55@gmail.com*

Joining the rush...

After the initial announcement of the finding of gold, Hargraves successfully drummed up enthusiasm for the rush and set about publicising it via articles in the *Sydney Morning Herald* and holding court at Bathurst, lecturing and explaining techniques for gold mining.

Colonial geologist Samuel Stutchbury travelled to Ophir to confirm gold finds for the government. In his report to Governor Fitzroy on 19 May he wrote: 'gold has been obtained in considerable quantity ... the number of persons engaged at work and about the diggings ... cannot be less than 400 and of all classes.' He apologised for his report being written in pencil, '... as there is no ink yet in this city of Ophir.'

Governor Fitzroy then declared a gold discovery on May 22, 1851: 'gold has been obtained in considerable quantity ... the number of persons engaged at work and about the diggings ... cannot be less than 400 and of all classes. The government feared that the entire labouring class would abandon their duties in Sydney as clerks, labourers and servants failed to appear for work as thousands rushed west for the newly named "Ophir" gold field.'

There was a concern that shepherds, drovers and farmers would abandon the developing agricultural industries that had been prospering the young colony. Governor Fitzroy wrote to Earl Grey on 29 May reporting that: 'thousands of people of every class are proceeding to the locality, – tradesmen and mechanics deserting certain and lucrative employment for the chance of success in digging for gold, – so that the population of Sydney has visibly diminished.'

Pastoralist James Macarthur suggested that martial law be introduced to prevent complete chaos. However, the news spread of Hargraves' discovery, and it was impossible for the government to stop the flow of people westwards. The one conversation around Sydney was, 'Have you been?' or 'Have your servants runyet?'

GOLD DIGGINGS.

STRONG COLONIAL RUM,

To stand One Gallon of Water to One Gallon of
Bum, made expressly to save one hundred per
cent on the carriage up to the mines. To be had
only at the Stores of the undersigned.

HENRY FISHER.

Stores, No. 337, George-street, Sydney,
Opposite the Old Burial Ground.

Sydney shopkeepers, canny in their ability to turn a profit and create consumer demand, began to fill their windows with all manner of miner's wares. Blue and red serge shirts, 'real gold-digging gloves', mining boots, blankets and other camping goods became staple items. The newspapers were filled with advertisements for items to take to the gold fields.

On the roads to the diggings, all classes of people travelled with their belongings. There was an atmosphere of excitement and impending

wealth. Eyewitness, Godfrey Charles Mundy, a soldier and writer saw: '... sixty drays and carts, heavily laden, proceeding westward with tents, rockers, flour, tea, sugar, mining tools, etc. each accompanied by from four to eight men, half of whom bore fire-arms. Some looked eager and impatient, some half-ashamed of their errant, others sad and thoughtful, all resolved.' By the end of May 1851, hundreds of diggers had arrived in the Ophir region and had begun their search for gold.

Having decided to 'make their fortune' our intrepid ancestors then had to work out the logistics. Getting to Hill End to join the rush, sometimes with wife and family in tow, must have been a momentous decision.

The rail line from Sydney to Bathurst reached Lithgow in 1869, eventually reaching Bathurst in 1876. So, in the early days rail was not an option. Coaches were then the public's only mode of travel. They ran from

Bathurst to everywhere north, west, south, and east to meet the trains which in 1870 terminated at Rydal and Wallerawang.

One old timer recalled that, in 1866: 'I crossed the Mountains, this time in a covered wagon. Starting from the old "Square and Compass" Hotel in Sydney one Monday morning, we arrived at Bathurst on Saturday afternoon. We crossed the Nepean River in a punt, no bridge there at that time. So, it took at least 6 days to get there.



It was the event of the day to see the coaches off, loaded inside and out with gold-mad passengers. There was a rush of unsuccessful diggers from Wattle Flat, Sofala, Tambaroora, and other small places heading back to the city as well. The big coaches had five horses, two at the pole, three abreast, leading. They ran day and night. The big coaches had three lamps, two each side and one high up. Smaller coaches had four and two horses. A stage for a set of horses was 15 miles, then a change. Changing places were at convenient points, generally a pub. There was always a change of horses waiting at the place, with harness on and a groom in charge. The changing only took a few minutes. The horses just relieved would then have a spell and some hours later take the down-coach to where they had started, so that the set of horses would do about 40 miles a day. The coachman drove the horses at top speed according to the state of the roads. Cobb coaches generally were used to carry gold from various diggings; in that case there was always an escort of mounted police, a couple mounted in advance of the coach and a couple behind, and sometimes a trooper in the coach.

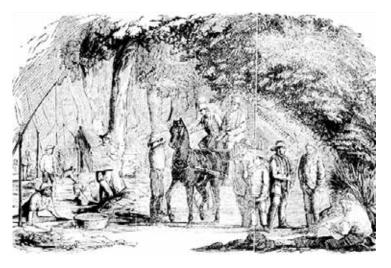
The coaches were often the subject of bushranger interest too. The following report from the *Evening News* on Thursday 22 February 1872, is just one example of such an incident.

Sticking up of the Tambaroora Mail Coach

The following particulars of the sticking-up of the Tambaroora mail coach, which took place yesterday evening, were furnished by Mr. J. H. M'Carthy of Melbourne, who was a passenger by the coach. It was about 4 o'clock in the evening and the coach was ascending Cherry Tree Hill, distant about forty miles from Hill End when two armed men, with thicky veiled faces rushed from the bush on the road side, and called oat, 'Bail up! bail up!' The challenge was quite a surprise, but before the passengers and coachman had fully thought of their position, the highwaymen were at business, one running to the horses' heads, and the other covering the passengers with a revolver. A cart coining in an opposite direction at the same time was also stuck up and made to stand before the horses. In order to prevent the coachman from starting his horses with a view to escape. The coachman was compelled to drive about 100 yards off, and the passengers were told to come out one by one, and our informant was the first to undergo the very pleasant sensation caused by a revolver at his ear and a man's hand in his pocket. He handed over, besides what was taken, all the money he had hidden about him, and the robber, good naturedly enough, gave him a half-crown change. The seven other passengers passed out in order and underwent search, by the robber. A good deal of money and valuable papers were, however, saved by the passengers stowing them away in the lining of their coats; but, unfortunately, the lining of one passenger's coat wanted a stitch; so that when be put £8 away they dropped out, as he stepped boldly before the robber; the money was of course taken care of. When the passengers had all been searched, the same fellow demanded the mails; but the mailman, and Cobb's Agent refused to surrender them, whereupon the highwayman swore, and said, 'I want no nonsense; hand out the bags; this is not the first coach I have stuck up.' The mails were, thrown out. The rascal then borrowed a passenger's knife, which, by the way, he did not return, and cut open the bags, making a hurried search, and scattering their contents far and wide. They were disappointed, but being afraid to stay long, they took three packages of letters away. After searching the passengers once more, they went a short distance into the bush, where their horses were fastened, and nothing more was seen of them. The scattered letters ware gathered up and placed in the bag, and the coach having been drawn to the main road, once more proceeded on its journey. Information was sent to Hill End and the coach, arrived in quick time at Wallerawang. The police at that place having been informed of the robbery, immediately started in pursuit, and there was every probability that the highwaymen would be captured. Our informant believes them to be new hands in the business, for when robbing the passengers, they trembled like an aspen leaf.

Cobb & Co's coaches weren't the only ones available either. Another local service was provided by Bill Maloney (sometimes spelt as Moloney in the literature). He ran the mail coach from Bathurst to Hill End for very many years, and in the lively times, too. He was a left-handed whip and was about the only man that Cobb's famous line of coaches never ran off the road.

Bill was a native of County Clare in Ireland and he had been engaged in running the mail coach between the Turon, Sofala, and Bathurst since 1859, and up to Hill End since about 1870, without a break.



The accompanying illustration from the *Town and Country Journal* in 1871 gives an idea of the anxiety of the intelligent miner to learn the 'news' upon the arrival of the mail. The reader will understand how the musical notes of the mailman are welcomed by all parties on a gold-field; by the banker, to learn that his exchanges and gold-dust came duly to hand; by the officials of Government, to learn their movements have been approved by their superiors; and, besides these, there are the storekeepers, tradesmen, mechanics, and the numerous miners, all eager to learn 'how the world jogs on', and a scramble frequently takes place for the extra numbers of the *Town and Country Journal*.

Prior to taking up business as a mail contractor, Mr Maloney, in the year 1853 ran a coach from Sydney to Bathurst. He was recognised as one of the oldest coaching hands in the State. He passed away in 1907 in Bathurst.



Bill ran in company for many years with Rutherford, Cobb and Co's head man. Usually there were three classes of passengers who paid various fares. The top grade rode all the way, second class walked up the hills, and third class walked and pushed. The coming of Cobb's coach caused a drop in fares. Maloney dropped his fare to Sofala to 5/- and Cobb and Co. followed, and finally Maloney carried people for nothing. But James Rutherford, of Cobb and Co., did not fancy carrying folks free. So, headvertised that he took only luggage and mail. 'Try Maloney,' he said to applicantsforrides. And BillMaloney'scoacheswereovercrowded with free riders. The fare to Sofala eventually returned to 5/-.

It was characteristic of Rutherford that he never forced competitors off the roads. Instead, he bought their lines and equipment. But he could never buy out Maloney. That Irishman would not sell. His popularity was amazing.

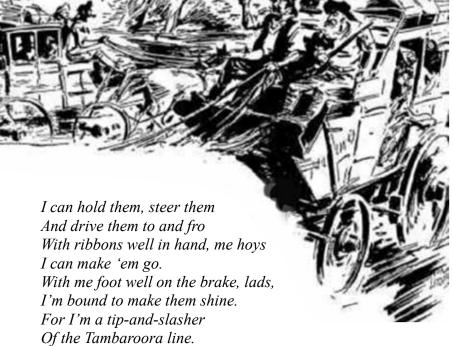
with their better coaches, allowing for faster travel.

Whenever he passed a Cobb's coach or overtook one on

Naturally Maloney resented the advent of Cobb and Co.

Wyagdon Hill, which was a steep and winding road between Hill End and Bathurst, he voiced his disgust in a song which he sang as he drove his teams.

Now look here, Cobb and Co.,
A lesson take from me.
If you meet me on the road
Don't you make too free.
For if you do you'll surely rue ...
You think you do it fine,
But I'm a tip-and-slasher
Of the Tambaroora line.



After the railway came in 1876 Cobb and Co. dropped out of coaching around Bathurst. Bill Maloney still hung on and his joy was great when he learned that his great rival was leaving.

Before he left, Rutherford invited Bill to his coach factory, where coaches for all Australia and even New Zealand were built. He took Bill to a new coach painted in Maloney's colours on which hung five sets of harness for a 'pick-axe' team.

'What do you think of this lot, Bill?' Rutherford asked. 'Very good, but too dear for me,' said Bill. Rutherford laughed and slapped Bill on the shoulder. 'No fear, I'm giving it to you,' he said, 'for being such a clean rival on the roads. This will set you up for life, Bill.'

And it did, for Maloney continued to run coaches on the Tambaroora line, with his son Bill to help him and to continue the line after his father died at a great age of 88.

Bill's son, known as Billy, related his memories in 1940:

'Later, the old man acquired the Hill End line from Rutherford, and we had an uninterrupted run for many years until these cheap jack contractors came on the scene and cut the business to ribbons. I think I have a world record in the fact that I drove a coach for fifty years over the one route. Used to travel 60 miles a day so you can imagine how far our coaches went in half a century. See how many of these modern motor cars would stand up to it over roads like we had to contend with. No bitumen surfaces or anything like that, and Monkey Hill and Wyagdon Hill were not even fenced in then. But they were good days, and I was sorry when the diggings cut out and left very little for us in the run. My brother and I left the Hill End run in 1911 to take over a contract a Kempsey. But there was none of them like the Hill End line,' he said emphatically. 'Of course, the bushrangers had all gone before my time, and things were fairly peaceful. The old man was often stuck up with his coach, but the only thing that stuck me up occasionally was the roads. We used to drive passengers from Bathurst to Hill End for two bob, give them a long beer on the road, and if they were hard-up, give them a couple of bob to go on with.'

Billy also tells the story of how the Chinaman's horse routed an army at Hill End – the Salvation Army. This horse was always forcing his way into my stables and eating the feed for the coach horses. Old On Gay, a Chinese storekeeper at Hill End owned him. One morning I found my stable door open, bran and chaff everywhere, and this horse in there gorging himself. I tied an empty kerosene tin to his tail, gave him a whack and let him go. He did. The Salvation Army was holding a street meeting outside the Club House Hotel, that is until the Chinaman's horse came on the scene. He jumped the drum and scattered them everywhere, and then raced two miles to Tambaroora in Melbourne Cup time. He was the damnedest rogue of a horse, and I've seen thousands. Fitzgerald's circus later bought him from the Chinaman and made a good trick horse of him.'

As a mark of very high esteem in which 'young' Billy Maloney was held by the residents of Hill End, he was made the recipient of a handsome testimonial, bearing the signatures of 18 residents of the Hill End district, and containing the inscription, beautifully worded as follows:

'Dear Friend. – Your absence from the old trail, the long trail, the trail that was always new, has proved the old adage, "The friends thou hast and their adoption tried grapple to thy soul with hooks of steel". So please accept this little token sent by a few of the sterling friends in truthful appreciation of your most constant and most disinterested actions towards everyone within coo-ee of your own sphere of influence.'

The testimonial, which contained a photo of the Hill End township in 1911, is a very fine painting of waratahs, flannel-flowers and Christmas bush, the work of Mr. I. McNab, of Hill End. Billy was also the recipient of a silvermounted four-horse whip and £20 in cash upon terminating his association with the Bathurst–Hill End coach run.

Hill End Easter Community market

Our popular markets will again be held on Easter Saturday 30 March 2024. All enquiries for stalls (\$15 a table) can be made to Ian and Julie Hodge on *markets@heatgg.org.au* by 9 March. More information is *bit.ly/HEMarkets* New stallholders are always welcome.



Maitland Camp

As you head to Hill End along the road from Bathurst, about 10 kms before reaching the outskirts of Hill End you pass a small cluster of old buildings on the left and a shearing shed on the right. This is Maitland Camp, the site of an Inn owned by Scotsman, Jim McEwen. The name was given to this area by the men who came from Maitland and the Hunter River area, who camped here on their way to Tambaroora goldfields.



Harry Hodge, in his *Guide to Historic Hill End* records that this dwelling, which once stood in Hill End township was pulled down and re erected here about 120 years ago. The huge chimney which represented a fortnight's labour for a man with a horse and dray has a wide fireplace supported by two massive wagon axles. Directly in front of the cottage stood McEwen's Maitland Camp Hotel. In the 1870s it It was removed from the site down in the paddock opposite when a road deviation brought the track up the slope to its present location. Local legend has it that the innkeeper on the hillside nearby bribed the road contractors to make the deviation in order to damage his rival's trade. But the Scot, hearing of the plot, pulled his inn down, slab by slab, and re-erected it on the new road alignment. By the time the road was finished, McEwen's inn was open for business and another shady scheme had gone awry. The hotel was once the scene of a magnificent Irish wake which lasted for 36 hours.

The following poem was written by James Robinson, from Bargong, and printed in the *Mudgee Guardian and North-Western Representative* on 23 March 1905. James Robinson was the son of Susan Toohey of Bargong Station, just north of Green Valley, on the road to Mudgee. He seems to have been a bit of a bush poet, writing about the people and the area he knew so well.

A Parting from the Maitland Camp

On a lonely mountain station, round the cliffs of Monkey Hill,

In a hut near the Turon River there were three of us in camp.

The hut was a rickety slab one, gloomy looking and dark,

The roof was a kind of mixture of day-light and strips of bark.

It wasn't at all inviting—no table, the bunks look bare,

A few loose bags and some blankets were the only comfort there.

It served as a kind of shelter — a sort of place for rest,

After days' hard walking in the gulfs of Eagle Hawk Nest.

But, somehow or other, that evening the hut seemed doubly drear,

As memory woke the echo of many a bygone year.

Jim McEwen said, sighing, "Oh, this is a lonesome place,

I'd give a good deal, boys, to see my mother's face,"

As he looked up quickly and said in a husky voice,

And handed me a sixpence, "My gift to you, my boy,"

It was the last thing he gave me the morning he was going away,

And bid me keep it always wherever my steps might stray,

And if I should be tempted to do anything that was wrong,

To look at the little sixpence and wonder what he would think.

I grasped his hand and promised to try and act up right

As we parted in the yard that morning, just fifteen months ago to-night,

Our hearts were soft and tender, and our eyes were dimmed with tears

As in eager tones we whispered the tales of other years.

It was only a little sixpence beneath a glimmering moon,

But it lighted the rugged nature in that lonely Turon camp

It shows how our memory may wield a sceptred way,

And draw into purer feelings many hundred miles away.



Volunteer projects and grants

Over the past few years, we have been very grateful for grant funding from Bathurst Regional Council and Create NSW that has enabled us to produce meaningful and well researched contributions to the history of the Hill End and Tambaroora region. This financial assistance plus the priceless contributions made by our passionate and skilled volunteers has allowed us to preserve and share so much of the 'hidden' history of the area, making it available for the interest of the current descendants and readily available for future researchers and historians.

Hawkins Hill update

As mentioned in our last issue we have been concerned about the state of historic mining relics on Hawkins Hill, especially the Flying Fox and magnificent stone walls surrounding the Krohmann's and nearby leases.

We were fortunate to obtain a grant from Bathurst Regional Council which has allowed us to engage Ray Christison of Highground Consulting to undertake an Assessment of Significance of the site in accordance with NSW Heritage guidelines.

We acknowledge that mining is and always was the main reason that Hill End still exists. Recommendations have been offered which will allow Vertex to go about their mining activities while still respecting the historic significance of the precinct.



In the meantime, some remediation work has been carried out by Vertex staff in conjunction with HEATGG volunteer Richard Shaw, on the Flying Fox. The precarious lean has been stabilised with steel bracing until further assessment can be undertaken. *bit.ly/HawkinsHillAssessment*

1970s slide digitisation project

We received another small grant in the 2022–2023 round from Bathurst Regional Council to digitise around 700 slides that were donated to us by the Bathurst Historical Society. These slides, dating from the 1970s pertained to the early days of Hill End under the NPWS stewardship and are a wonderful record of events and the old buildings before renovation or restoration. A truly valuable addition to our archives.



Village Campground – Easter 1971

St Paul's Presbyterian Church

The third grant that came our way from Create NSW is for the publication of a history of St Paul's Presbyterian Church which also turned 150 in October 2022. Volunteer Jacky Dalton compiled the story and based it on the centenary history written by Keith Mackenzie in 1972, with additional material from the records not available back then. She then delved into the research resources and with the help of current and former residents, including Ted Abbott, Colin Shapland,



Carol McCance, Lynne Seaman (nee Anderson) and Helen Wood (nee Hocking) and others, was able to put together a narrative covering the last 50 years or so, including the sterling work undertaken by the Church Restoration Committee in the late 1960s. Without their efforts the church would not still be standing today. As we go to print the future of the church and ownership is still a matter to be decided.

The final manuscript is currently in preparation under the watchful eye of Sharon Shelton, and it is anticipated that copies will be available for purchase early 2024. We'll keep you posted.



What's cooking? CALLING FOR ANCESTRAL RECIPES!!!

Are you the keeper of a family cookbook of handwritten recipes? Do you have that special meal that reminds you of your past? Do you wonder what families sat down to eat on the goldfields? As a volunteer with the Hill End and Tambaroora Gathering Group, my passion for history and cooking have led me to want to collect and preserve recipes handed down from our ancestors who lived in the district. If you have one of these precious items and a photograph of your loved one as well

as any cooking stories, I'd like to add them to the collection. This snap shot of the past will be collated into a book we can all cherish. I look forward to hearing from you – Karen Bates.

Scan or photograph your contribution and send it to Karen at the following email: karen.bates9@gmail.com

Can you help with our projects?

If you have a Hill End or Tambaroora related venture and would like to share it with us, or perhaps become involved with any of the existing ventures we have stacked up in our 'to-do' pile then please get in touch. It is only by sharing these around that following our passions that so many previously unwritten stories can come to light.

Bathurst Regional Council – Conference of Villages

In December 2023 Bathurst Mayor Jess Jennings invited representatives of all the villages in the council area to a 'Conference of Villages' in Bathurst. Timing, – a week before Christmas – was a bit unfortunate but a group of stakeholders, of which the Gathering Group was ones managed to put together a presentation outlining the basic facts and figures of the district and mentioned a number of issues that had concerned residents and visitors for some time. Bernie Baker, Robyn Auld and Sharon Shelton attended and submitted our presentation. We are not awaiting Councils response to our's and the other villages' concerns.

Among these were the maintenance of the Tambaroora Cemeteries, the state of the roadway and the condition of the trees along Beyers Avenue. Another issue of concern was the recent lack of regular medical attendance at the Clinic.

The newly reopened Bridle Track was mentioned as another gateway to Hill End but some aspects such as some visitors leaving campfires burning and rubbish lying around was an important issue. Suggestions were made that a Council Ranger could patrol the Track on weekends at least and educate the visitors about bush safety. Other issues included the inconsistent staffing of the Wealth Clinic and lack of full-time police in the area. Although both these issues are more NSW Government based, rather than Council, it was felt that their support in these matters is essential.

A village plan had been prepared back in 2015 (plan can be viewed here *bit.ly/HEVillagePlan*). However, it is now somewhat out of date so maybe time to encourage Council to relook at the whole concept and update it.

Research Officer's Report — Helen Wood Research enquiries

The following families of interest have been researched in more depth for descendants who have contacted us since last year. If you have anything more to add to these family stories you may like to contact the enquirer and please send us a copy to add to our files. (*info@heatgg.org.au*)

Helen has been answering family history enquiries since July 2022. The following is a list of families researched. She usually provide any relevant information found in Hill End NPWS records and HEATGG files and also conducts further research (sometimes quite extensive) into the families in question and provide a



report of her findings. Most people are appreciative and offer positive feedback. We do not charge for our research or sharing information however we do have a Donation box in the Family History Centre and a 'Donation' button on our Shop webpage if you feel our work has been of some value to you.

Family of interest	Name	Email/contact	
Edward and Susan McKivat at Sofala	Heather Moxon	hmox@bigpond.com	
William Farrington at Crudine	Leanne Heath	1368crudine@gmail.com	
James Johnson and Ann Fisher nee Anderson	Sam Hodder	samsg1984@gmail.com	
John Maris and Jane Williams	Gloria Hallett	jazzi63@tpg.com.au	
John Britty North and family	Philip Hammon	philipandpeta@westnet.com.au	
John Robinson and Phoebe Day	Anita Zerk	anitazerk@hotmail.com	
Nathan Raphael and Elizabeth Hewitt at Sofala	John Raphael	jjraphael@hotmail.com	
Mary Ann Byfield and Glendora Lawson etc	Barbara Walker	rambull21@gmail.com	
Jane Manning, Mary Ann Byfield and Mary Ann Kerns etc	Ian Bradshaw	bradif14@hotmail.com	
Alexander Thomas Hutchinson and William Goodwin Hutchinson	Amanda Pearson	amanda.j.pearson@gmail.com	
Trevena family re Royal Hall photos	Virginia Risby	vrisby@bigpond.com	
John Bryant and Elizabeth Hocton	Keith Stapley	glenhope@ozemail.com.au	
Jane Northey and William John Burgess	Cathy Pearce	robertandcathypearce@gmail.com	
Thomas Barraby Owen and Eliza Ann Matthews – Thomas of aboriginal descent.	Carissa Cusack	carissacusack88@gmail.com	
John Silas Eldon Oliver and Mary Agnes Sarah Marshall	Greg Geohegan	geoghegan22@optusnet.com.au	
William Frederick Augustus Frenzel and Linna Marie Schreiber	Julie Wallace	julznwayne@yahoo.com.au	
Charles Harold (Snowy) Freeman	Leslie Brown	I.b.brown@bigpond.com	
Louisa Heany, Richard Cunningham, Berry Lipson and Charles Sommers	Jill Innes	jillyinnes@bigpond.com	
John Britty North and family	Philip Hammon	philipandpeta@westnet.com.au	
Johan Dixsan and Sarah Ann Mettam, Richard Dalley and Sarah Gertrude Dixsan	Sharene Jackson	sharenejackson@iinet.net.au	
Louisa Heany, Richard Cunningham, Berry Lipson and Charles Sommers	Jill Innes	jillyinnes@bigpond.com	
John Britty North and family	Philip Hammon	philipandpeta@westnet.com.au	
Johan Dixsan and Sarah Ann Mettam, Richard Dalley and Sarah Gertrude Dixsan	Sharene Jackson	sharenejackson@iinet.net.au	
John Phillips and Caroline Woodhart	Kieran Hannon	aussiemigrationireland@gmail.com	
Johan Dixsan and Sarah Ann Mettam, Edward Ernest Anthes and Sarah Gertrude Dixsan, Richard Dalley and Sarah Gertrude Dixsan	Janice Ellis	janiceellis@bigpond.com	
Gertrude Bryant nee Burns aka Thompson aka Travis	Sonia Christensen	Hill End facebook group	
William Rowley and Frederick Wyatt Rowley	Chris Hodge	Hill End facebook group	
John Alexander Johnson and Mary Ann Little	Michel Nader	airraidtavern@bigpond.com	
Longmore	John Moore	Jmbuildingconsultancy@gmail.com	
Gettens, Gittins, Gettins, Millett, Moir, McCarthy	Jenny Klein	shoofly@skymesh.com.au	
Charles Markham, Mary Ann Byfield/Bifield	Tania Hollis	Taniacate71@gmail.com	
Joseph Elliott, son of Mary Maris nee Elliott	Sharri Lembryk	s.lembryk@unsw.edu.au	
Glendora Lawson, Kenneth Lawson (Grandfather)	Sharon Fowke (nee Lawson)	Enchantart1@hotmail.com	
Anderson, Heap, Northover, Johnson	Anthony Mitchell	tjrmitch@bigpond.net.au	
Culnane	Diane Hardman	Dihardman73@gmail.com	
Thomas Roberts, Barlow, Knoulding/Knowlden, Alfred Baxter	John Ayres	John.ayres1@bigpond.com	
Walpole, DeLaTorre	Greg Barrell	0417470747	
Owen Carroll, Beard	Bruce Carroll	bmcbmc@bigpond.net.au	
Ackermann	Natalie Thomas	Misstomnat@gmail.com	
Beaufoy Merlin	Ana Davis	anaboothbydavis@gmail.com	

Condolences

We have been advised of the passing of some of our members and past residents in the last 18 months. Our condolences to the families and friends on their loss.

Glenn Woodley (Hill End), Robert Fraser (Tambaroora), Alan Dennington, (Hill End) Robin McLachlan, (Bathurst) Fred Leake (aged 99 years and 72 days), Bev Stuart (Bathurst) June Woolard and Vicki Cole.

You are invited to the HEATGG Annual Gathering

Saturday 2 March 2024 from 10 am until 4 pm, Rhodes Rotary Park, Killoola Street, Concord West

About the day

The day is a very free form gathering with some arriving for morning tea (or earlier - just note the banner may not be up when you get there before 10 am). It is an excellent opportunity for those with ancestors from the region to meet with others who have a similar interest.

The day initially started as a reunion for those who lived/had lived in the Hill End and 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.

Our meeting place for the past 16 years (minus the covid years), Rhodes Park, caters well to our requirements. Our venue provides public transport access, plenty of parking, toilets and hopefully a kiosk (this has been closed, but should be reopening early 2024) and a large shelter shed which we have booked solely for our use all day.

There will be a smaller than usual selection of reference materials on display on the day and a selection of Hill End related books and Hill End 150 memorabilia available for sale this time. We will have credit card facilities available and we will accept cash too.

What do people bring?

Boiling water, and coffee and tea making facilities will also be available. And for those that prefer a 'real' coffee, hopefully the kiosk will be re-opened.

- As in the past years the following suggestions are a few ideas that have come to mind:
- your own picnic chairs/table or picnic rug, (if coming by car) so we can spread out and be comfy
- morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea
- copies of the 'potted' version of your family history, including photos (copies, of course, to keep the originals safely at home!). This may be an opportunity to swap stories and information.
- a name label with your name on it, (in LARGE PRINT so others can read it without glasses!) and include the main Hill End/Tambaroora family names that you are associated with
- 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 or camera to 'take' notes a few copies of a 1-page 'handout' that gives your name and contact details and the families that you are interested in for swapping with other who have a similar family interest. This 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.



The bonus of attending the Gathering is you will also be ready to attend our second annual general meeting. The AGM starts at 12 noon.

Further enquiries can be made to Lorraine Purcell: 0408117784. Please leave a message if no answer or via email to heatgg@yahoo.com.au

You will find helpful instructions on parking and public transport on the following pages

Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group





Rhodes Rotary Park, Killoola Street, Concord West (Adjacent to the Kokoda Memorial Walkway and Brays Bay) Saturday 2 March 2024 from 10 am until 4 pm 2024 Annual General Meeting commencing 12 noon.

Access by car:

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

Parking is also available at Concord Hospital car park on Hospital Road. 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:

To make or check your travel plans closer to the event (including trackwork, disruptions to services) go to https://transportnsw.info/ and enter your travel details in the trip planner.

Rhodes Railway Station

Train to Rhodes Railway Station then short walk downhill to cross Concord Road 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.

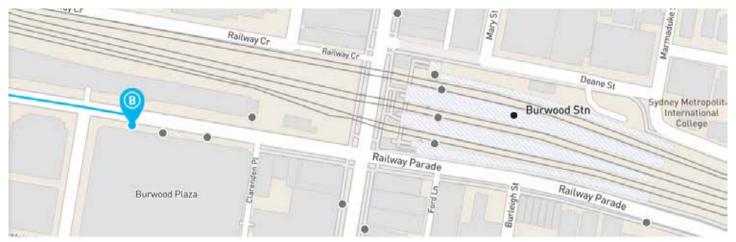


Burwood or Strathfield Railway Station

Buses run approximately every 20–30 minutes)

Route No. 458 from Burwood Station

Departs Burwood Station in Railway Parade Stand B



Route No. 458 from Burwood Station in Railway Parade St