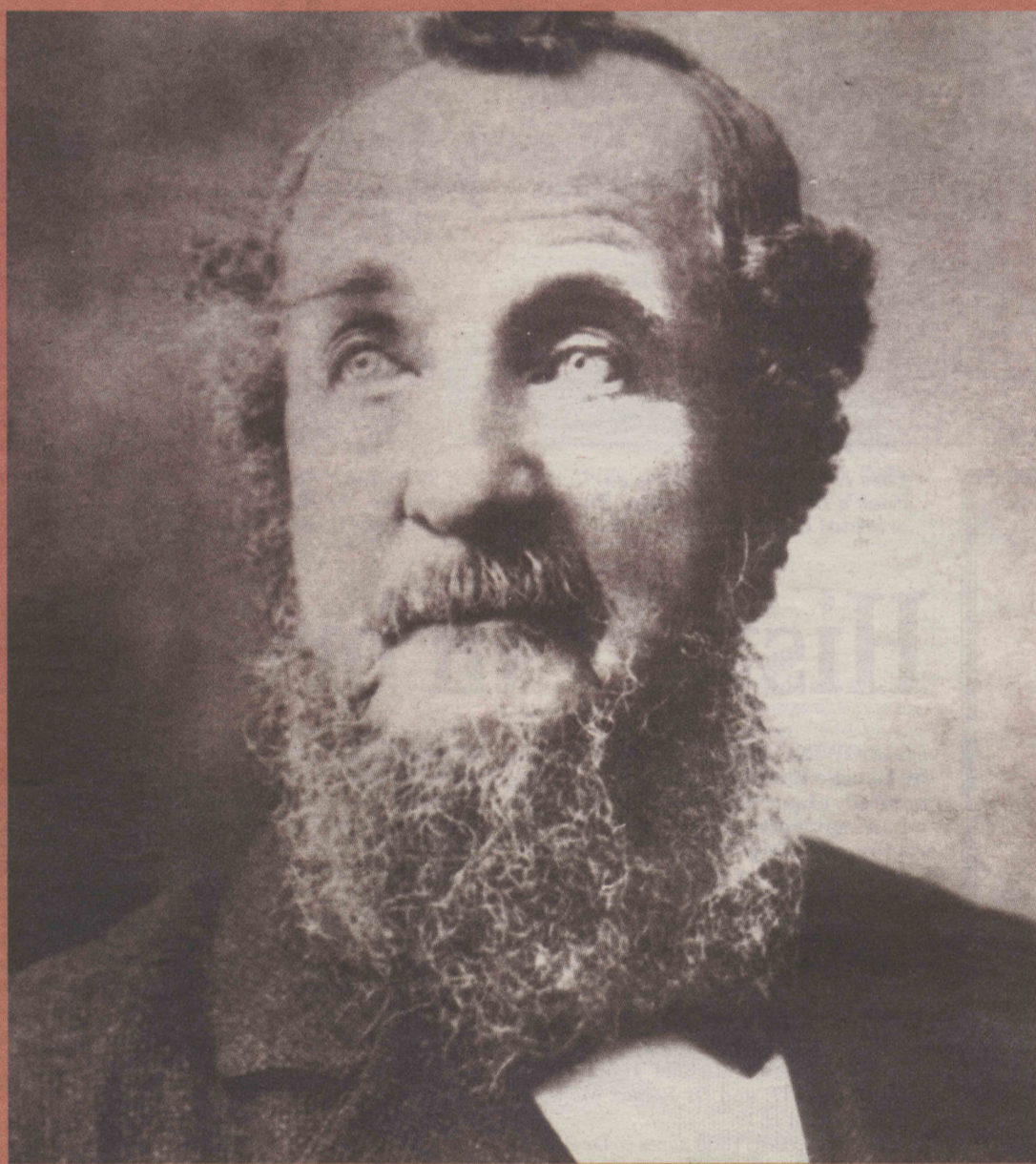


Kiama

MUNICIPALITY

OUR HISTORY IN PRINT



Joseph Weston - 1824-1913, Founder of the Kiama Independent

Volume 1

COLLECTOR'S EDITION

February 2000

A Kiama Independent
Twelve Volume Millennium Feature

Individual Copies \$2 available from Kiama Independent office



THE *Kiama Independent* today has pleasure in launching this, the first of our historical millennium supplements.

The supplements will appear monthly in the *Independent* throughout 2000 and will feature valuable, historical information which maps not only the physical development of the Kiama Municipality, but also the social and cultural progress through the ages.

Specific focus will be on the 140 years following Kiama's proclamation as a municipality in 1859. This will be done using our own *Kiama Independent* as a guide - it dating back to July 7, 1863 - and the *Kiama Examiner* which bridges the gap from 1859 to 1863. Other resources will include the Kiama Pilots Cottage Museum and both the Kiama & Gerringong District Historical Societies. William Bayley's *Blue Haven* will

be used as a reference.

Also featured will be historical features on the local families who helped shape the character of Kiama from its early beginnings right through to the present day, together with interviews with some of our oldest residents.

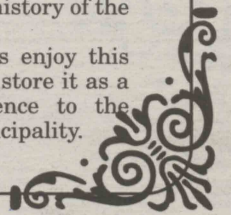
From time to time, we will republish interviews featuring some of those residents who have already left us but whose memories contribute to the social

fabric of our district and help provide a true to life picture of 'the way it was'.

Our first supplement will concentrate on the period 1859 to 1869, a time of immense change in the history of the area.

It is hoped that readers enjoy this series of supplements and store it as a valuable historical reference to the shaping of the Kiama Municipality.

Michelle Hocter



• This is believed to be the earliest photo of Terralong Street - circa 1860. It shows the Steam Packet Hotel and Cook's Blacksmiths Shop. The long slab shed to the right is the early Show Pavilion and beside that is the original Kiama Courthouse. A new courthouse was built in its place in 1861.

Don't be led up the garden path



When you need a specialist in Property, Local Govt & Planning or Family Law, call Kearns & Garside on 4232 1188



Kearns & Garside SOLICITORS
Sandy Rendel - Accredited Specialist Property Law
Peter Moggach - Accredited Specialist Local Govt & Planning
John Littrich - Accredited Specialist Family Law
Catherine Holz - BA LL.B. (Hons)

66 Collins Street, Kiama - 4232 1188

52626

History in brief 1797-1850

FOLLOWING the discovery of Kiama by George Bass in 1797, little is documented about the area until 1816 when sawyers descended on the region, clearing vast tracts of forest timber for export to Britain.

The first land grants were issued to prominent men, many of whose namesakes are reflected in today's local streets and landmarks. They include:

Jamberoo Parish: Andrew Allen 700 acres (in 1817); John Ritchie 300 acres; Dr Thomas Foster 2560 acres (known as Curramore); Michael Hyam 1280 acres in 1837; and Dr Robert Menzies 300 acres in 1839.

Kiama Parish: 1000 acres to Dr Bland at Black Head in 1825, and JT Hughes 1200 acres; a portion of 500 acres at

Kiama to Rev Thomas Kendall in 1831 (known as Burroul); land between Kiama and Minnamurra River to Daniel Cooper and called Hoolong (later Eureka); and 1000 acres at Kiama to William Manning in 1839 (known as Bonaira).

A town site was reserved at Kiama in 1826 and, in 1831, troops from Wollongong were sent to build huts and barracks to preserve order among the cedar-getters.

In 1839, a town plan was approved by the governor while the first land sale was made in 1840.

In 1849, a new road was cleared from Kiama to Gerringong to replace the old track along the beaches and headlands.

Hindmarsh), Renfrew Park (James Miller), and a portion of the Berry Estate.

Beyond clearing and timber getting, little was done to develop the village of Gerringong until the late 1850s. A town plan was not approved by the Government until 1854, after which followed a post office, blacksmith, slaughter house, butchery, cooperage and a hotel which later became known as the Lanterrick.

As soon as the Municipalities Act was passed in 1858, the townships of Kiama, Gerringong and Jamberoo pressed for local government status.

It is at this juncture, on January 1, 1859, that we begin our comprehensive history of Kiama Municipality.

• Will's cigarette lady.

To the north, a track led over the hill through Eureka and Hoolong (Gainsborough) to the Minnamurra River where a punt operated to Peterborough (Dunmore) as early as 1847, prior to which horsemen forded the river or swam their horses across.

Historically, Jamberoo was the first town to thrive in the Kiama area.

It, by 1850, included three churches, a variety of stores, the Man of Kent Inn at Curramore, and the Woodstock flour and timber mill which also incorporated a cooperage, pigery and bacon factory.

The Gerringong area consisted of four large estates - Omega Retreat (granted to James Mackey Gray), Alne Bank (Michael



MASSIVE WINTER STOCK - NOW IN

The Summer Clearance Continues at the **BIGGEST SURF SHOP IN NSW**



NATURAL NECESSITY SURF SHOP

The Wetsuit & Bodyboard Experts

115 FERN STREET, GERRINGONG (opposite Town Hall)

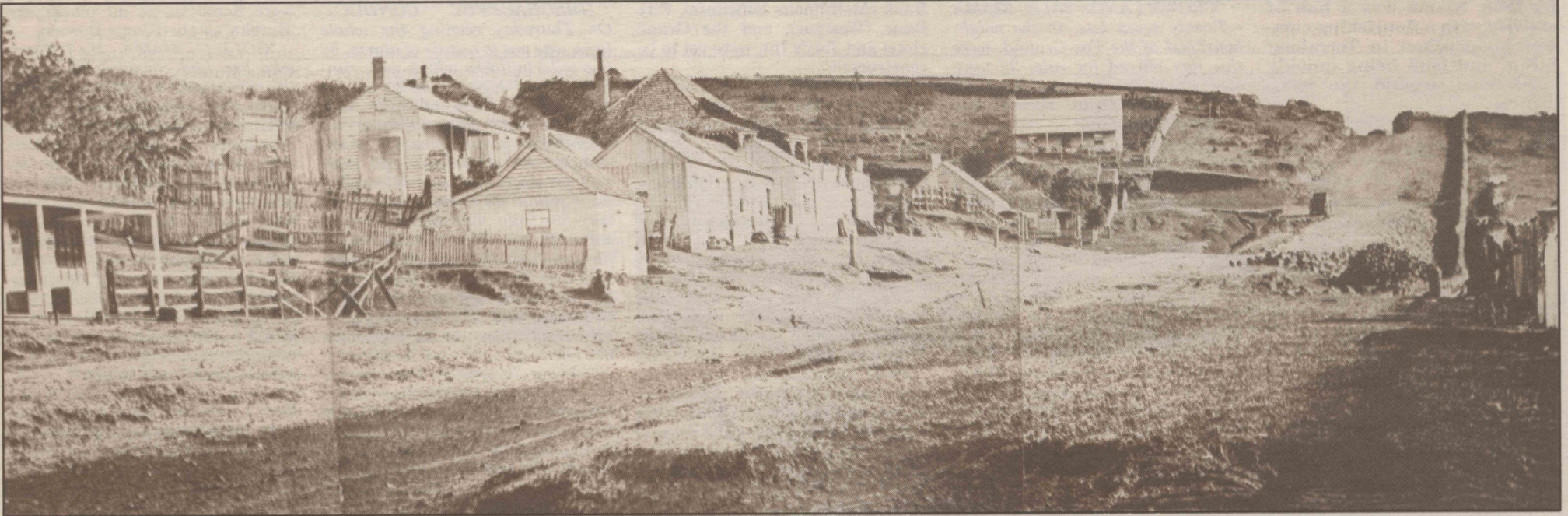
OPEN 7 DAYS 9am-5pm ☎ 4234 1636



It's definitely worth the drive"

52621

Moves toward municipal identity



• 1860 - Kiama Council embarks on its first major municipal project, the excavation of Pike's Hill (to the right) in an effort to provide a more horse-friendly link between Kiama and Jamberoo townships. Note that work on the quarry - which contains today's Kiama Quarry Leisure Centre and sports complex - is yet to begin.

GIVEN the often deplorable state of the local roads in colonial Australia, the amount of domestic garbage which was buried in back yards and along water courses, and the ad hoc style of development, it is hard to believe that the path to Local Government was actually difficult.

The Government's endeavours to introduce the Municipalities Act in 1858 attracted a great deal of debate throughout the colony, especially over the proposal to introduce a land tax.

The following passage from the *Sydney Morning Herald* and reprinted in the *Kiama Examiner* on January 8, 1859, encourages support for the Government's endeavours. In doing so, the item provides an educated viewpoint on the principles and ideals behind the Local Government model.

"THE MUNICIPALITIES ACT - In considering the question of Municipal Government there is a far higher principle involved than that of mere taxation. Unfortunately however, men seldom look beyond their own petty and immediate interests... Municipal institutions partake more of a social than of a political nature; their end and aim is to secure local improvements, to add to the comforts and the pleasures of the people, to cleanse and remove impurities from particular localities, and thereby render the attainment and enjoyment of health less precarious than it might otherwise be. In addition to this, institutions of this nature have a most excellent effect in training the people to think and act for themselves. They must also be highly beneficial to the labouring classes, inasmuch as they provide labour and cause the revenue raised to be expended in the locality."

On the home front, there was strong support for Local Government principle with forward thinking civic leaders and businessmen keen to see the area developed. This was especially so in the area of shipping. Both Kiama and Gerringong saw their futures dependent on the development of a harbour in each of the townships together with an upgrade of local roads which were in a terrible state.

The one issue that the townsfolk could not agree upon, however, was whether Jamberoo, Gerringong and Kiama should be amalgamated as one municipal precinct.

The people of Gerringong became especially outspoken in their opposition to amalgamation and vented their sentiments at a series of community meetings. From the nature of the following text, we can assume the journalist supported amalgamation.

"GERRINGONG - The adjourned public meeting to decide whether it would be desirable to be united with Kiama in one municipality was holden on Wednesday last. Mr George Grey in the chair... At length, Mr Grey JP in a rambling speech full of nothing but erroneous assumptions of the cost of

gas lights, sewerage, water rates and God knows what beside which the country would have to pay for the town of Kiama, he moved 'That it is not expedient nor desirable that Jerringong should be joined with Kiama in a Municipality'. Mr Hindmarsh seconded the resolution, he has decidedly objected to any such union with Kiama but was not opposed to district councils, he considered there should be one at Jerringong both to improve their roads and the harbour. Mr S Grey JP moved a direct negative viz, 'That it is expedient and desirable that Jerringong should be united with Kiama in a municipality'. He in a very few words utterly demolished the opinions and arguments of the two previous speakers in which he was ably assisted by Mr R. Miller who seconded the amendment showing the utter fallacy of ever dreaming of making the harbour available as a shipping port as even in his time seven vessels had been wrecked there. After some disultory conversation the amendment was put, and on a show of hands was declared to be carried..."

Kiama Examiner, January 15, 1859

In the midst of such controversy, the first Kiama Municipal election was conducted on September 13, 1859. Fourteen men stood for nine places on Kiama Council with the three top vote-getters from each township being elected.

The official declaration of the poll was:

KIAMA WARD	
James Colley	113
John Sharpe	106
Joseph Pike	78
J. Emery	58
George Gray (retired early)	6
JAMBEROO WARD	
John Hukins	102
John Colley	81
John Hanrahan	77
T. Tempest	57
J. Cullen	55
GERRINGONG WARD	
Joseph Blow	90
Robert Miller	64
James Robertson	57
H. Gray	50

The first meeting of Kiama Council was held at Adams Hotel on September 26 when James Colley was unanimously elected mayor. The motto *Laborimus et vivemus* - 'We shall work, we shall live' - was adopted soon after. James Poulton was elected the first town clerk, and a loan of £1500 pounds was secured to undertake immediate municipal improvements.

*** **

Kiama Council's beginnings were not overly auspicious. In an effort to improve the local roads, one of council's first major decisions was to excavate Pike's Hill, located at the end of west end of Terralong Street, to provide a link between Kiama and Jamberoo. But the dedication of 15

percent of council's annual income to the project was seen as so expedient it led to calls for municipal separation by Gerringong and Jamberoo residents.

Kiama Council was in operation for just three months before the first angry stirrings were voiced in Gerringong, the citizens of the town believing the money could have been better spent upgrading the connecting roads between each township which were so bad they segregated the towns and impeded trade.

Writes one Gerringong correspondent, *Kiama Examiner*, November 29, 1859:

"It is an act of injustice to the other wards to demand from them 15 percent of their revenue for the improvement of roads through Kiama. It is from the surrounding country that the town derives its prosperity, and it is wrong to expend large sums of money on supererogatory improvement of its streets, while the roads leading thereto are in such bad condition - in some places almost impassable."

A public meeting was held at Gerringong in December, 1859, to consider calls for separation, but the speakers instead became sidetracked by the issue of whether a boat harbour should be developed at the current 'Boat Harbor' in Gerringong township, or at Black Head.

Ultimately, a petition signed by 120 people seeking separation was published in the *Government Gazette* in November, 1861, but it was not granted and neither was a follow-up petition lodged the following year.

But still the rumblings persisted. In September, 1862, Jamberoo residents followed Gerringong's lead, calling for municipal separation but resolving to continue as a united entity.

Matters were not assisted by the

increasingly deplorable state of the roads, which correspondents to the newspaper either noted directly, or alluded to at every available opportunity.

Take, for example, the following *Examiner* report (September, 1860) on suggestions that the Russians might invade Kiama:

"Jamberoo will, of course, escape, as it will be impossible for any army to come up here from the impassable state of the roads. In some future generation their fossil remains would be found imbedded in a strata of yellow clay, which would be all that would be left to tell the tale that a great and mighty army had once invaded our shores."

CIVIL AND STRUCTURAL

BILKEY REILLY & ASSOC. PTY. LTD.

CONSULTING ENGINEERS

"For all your Civil & Structural Design Requirements"

☎ 4232 1378

**4A/125 Terralong Street
KIAMA**

McInerney's
7 Day
Pharmacy

JUST ARRIVED

NEW RANGE OF BABY CLOTHING 0000-2

With matching accessories available
Brands by Bunnykins, Baby Kids and Kids Clothing Co.
Large Range to Choose
Grow suits available from \$13.95
Bunnykins China and Gift Sets Available

Terralong Street, Kiama
Phone 4232 1046



52810

52810

A community on the move

By 1858, Kiama was a hub of activity with a flourishing commercial precinct in Terralong Street and land being quickly subdivided around the town centre.

In 1866, a residential block outside the Kiama CBD was fetching around £40 per acre, while a half acre block in Collins Street sold for £50. Some lots in the municipality, however, were obviously deemed more desirable than others, even if they did command 'sweeping views'.

"CROWN LANDS SALE - KIAMA - Twenty seven lots, in the neighbourhood of the Fox Ground, were this day offered for sale; 25 were sold at prices ranging from £1 (\$2.50) to £4 (\$10). Several lots would puzzle a goat or chamois to find footing on; yet they were purchased, perhaps by persons who never having seen them, did not dream that the Government would be guilty of such an imposition upon individual or public credulity as to offer perpendicular rocks for sale..."
Kiama Examiner, January 8, 1859

"LAND IN KIAMA - On Monday last, Messrs Richardson and Wrench sold by auction, in Sydney, an allotment of half an acre of land, situated in Collins-street, Kiama, close to Gard's Brewery. We understand that the steward of the Nora Creina became the purchaser at the price of £50."
The Examiner, March 24, 1860

"HOLLAND'S ESTATE - Messrs. Richardson and Wrench sold by auction on Monday, at their rooms in Sydney, a portion of the Peterborough Estate, 2560 acres on the Minnamurra River, Illawarra. Mr GL Fuller was the purchaser, the price being £8650."
Kiama Independent, June 1, 1865

"RESULT OF SALE - Mr GK Waldron reports having sold during the last week the following properties belonging to John Graham Esq:- a 19-acre suburban lot in Barney-street, Kiama, at £34 per acre; a five acre ditto, at £47 per acre; a half-acre allotment in Manning-street for £75; the Kiama Store, Manning Street, for £800."
Kiama Independent, October 4, 1866.

At a glance, the streets of Kiama in 1860 were not pleasing on the eye. The streetscape was characterised by rough roads and rows of timber buildings - both commercial and residential - which appeared as if they might blow over in the next wind. Stately buildings such as the Kiama Post Office, Kiama Council Chambers (Old), the CBC

Bank (McKinnons Solicitors), City Bank (Westpac), and the Grand Hotel and Tory's Inn were yet to be constructed.

The only historical landmarks of note were the Methodist (now Uniting) Church in Manning Street (built 1950), Anglican Christ Church (1856), and the Kiama Courthouse which was completed in 1861.

Around them operated a myriad of shops which were little more than a house with the front room set up for serving the needs of the local settler. Those items that could not be bought locally were purchased through catalogue from Sydney stores.

Aside from a selection of hotels and inns, newspaper advertisements in 1859 showed that businesses included a tailor and draper, bootmaker, clock salesman, blacksmith and wheelwright, Mr Hukin's Four-In-Hand Inn, and Hunt's Illawarra Brewery which operated in Manning Street.

The Post-office Store, Kiama, was run by prominent businessmen Messrs Fuller and GK Waldron (see advertisement, left) while the Park Stores, which sold "drapery, mantles, shawls and fancy goods for fashionable, seasonable and serviceable clothing" operated in Shoalhaven Street.

Advancing local commerce, two banks opened for business in 1859, the English, Scottish & Australian Chartered Bank, and the Commercial Bank of Sydney. In 1862, a Penny Bank was launched in the newly-opened Kiama Courthouse.

Despite its many services, one visitor to the town saw it necessary to point out a rather 'glaring' oversight.

"SIR: Since my stay in your township, I have been much surprised at the difficulty in ascertaining the exact time or hour of the day, although I understand that there are not only two watchmakers in the town, but also a super-abundance of time pieces, which seem only to be regulated by the majority. Now I would respectfully submit and suggest to the townspeople resident here, to apply to the proper authorities and point out the propriety of placing a clock in some conspicuous place for the accommodation and convenience of the inhabitants. Yours, F.E.G. Croft"
The Examiner, November 21, 1860

Panicked horses and runaway buggies were not the only perils faced by the colonial pedestrian.

"DISGRACEFUL CONDUCT - On Thursday evening the whole town was put to a state of alarm, by two wild bullocks which were running yolked together about all the streets in a state of half madness... We saw them running up Shoalhaven-street, foaming at the mouth with excitement and exertion, presently they were followed by some fellow on horseback, looking very less wild than themselves... a scene of confusion and noise ensued for about a quarter of an hour which was nothing less than disgraceful. The Cattle Driving Act is in force in this town, and although not generally acted upon, yet its provisions are not to be entirely a dead letter, and if the safety of the townspeople is not to be completely subservient to the momentary convenience of cattle buyers, then the present case is surely one calling for police interference."
The Examiner, March 10, 1860

Kiama's town water supply was accessed via a stream which meandered down Terralong Street and through Hindmarsh Park to the ocean, water being transported to local homes and businesses by horse and cart. A drought in 1867-68, however, placed stiff demands on the system and prompted calls for the deepening of the town well.

"WATER SUPPLY - The severity of the drought, and the constant drawing of water from the new well in Terralong-street, have produced something like an exhaustion of the supply of water there. The stream has not ceased flowing; and impartial failure is thought to be attributable to the want of depth in the reservoir, so that it is speedily emptied by the water carts, which are on the spot almost incessantly during the day."
Kiama Independent, December 26, 1867

Kiama was never to make its name as a gold town, but it was not for want of trying. Traces of gold

were found in, of all places, the 'Eureka' estate (Kiama Downs).

"GOLD IN KIAMA - Mr T Henry, who has had considerable experience at the gold diggings at the west coast of New Zealand, has recently discovered some indications of the possibility of obtaining gold in remunerative quantities in the neighbourhood of Kiama... The spot at which his experiment was made was on the beach near Eureka (Jones Beach). Mr Henry has since made a similar trial of the sand found at the bottom of Manning-street, just below the Obelisk, and found indications of the precious metal; but in quantities so minute as to require the use of a quicksilver for its extraction from the soil."
Kiama Independent, February 13, 1868

The following passage provides some idea of the living standards of the day - and of the perils faced by those living in poorer circumstances.

"NARROW ESCAPE: On the evening of Saturday last, a large stone, said to be some tons weight, being loosened from its position on the side of the range at Mount Pleasant, rolled down the hill in the direction of a hut, where two females live, one of whom is a comparative cripple and who was sitting about the middle of the hut, the other being outside feeding some fowls; the rolling mass struck the hut, knocking down the back wall and resting within a few inches of the poor creature who remained motionless and untouched, preserved by an unseen but Almighty hand from immediate destruction."
Kiama Independent, May 21, 1868

New Goods! New Goods! New Goods!
MESSRS FULLER AND WALDRON of the Post-office Store, Kiama, return their most grateful acknowledgements for the unlimited patronage bestowed upon them and beg leave to state that they have just opened a quantity of seasonal goods, which are marked at a very low figure, consisting of:-

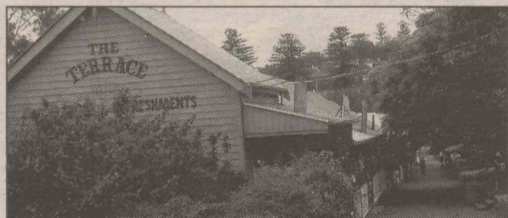
- Drapery
- Slops
- Boots and shoes
- Saddlery
- Ironmongery
- Groceries
- Oilman's stores
- Wines & spirits, &c. &c.

Ray White
REAL ESTATE www.rpdata.cp./ai/n24374/

We auction the nicest properties in Kiama

102 Terralong Street
4232 4222

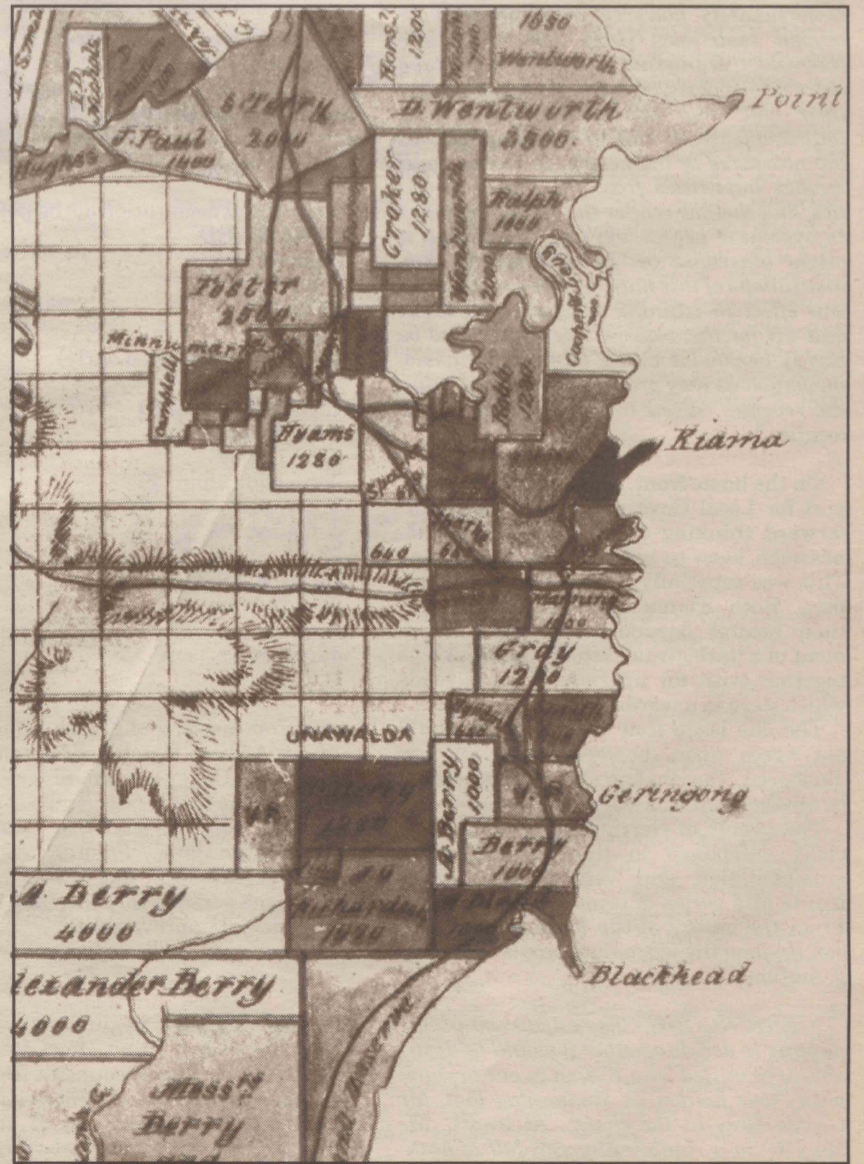
The Terrace is One of Kiama's Most Historic Building Complexes



Specialty Shops & Eateries in an Historic Setting in Collins Street Kiama

- Amaki Cottage Cafe - 4232 1214**
Enjoy casual cuisine from an extensive menu, blackboard specials, freshly baked cakes and slices. Open 7 days with dinner Friday and Saturday.
- Future Pastimes - 4232 2594**
New Age books and music - crystals galore. Tarot, Feng Shui cures, aromatherapy supplies, herbs and spells, myth and magic.
- Kiama Artisan Trading - 4232 4608**
Offering an unusual collection of unique antique furniture, tribal rugs, artifacts and decorator items from artisans around the world.
- Kiama Sidewalk Confectionery Cottage - 4232 1388**
Specialising in quality confectionery, gourmet teas, coffees, cordials, jams, mustards, sauces, honey and gift boxes, Australian crafts, balloons and bonsai.
- Merry-Go-Round Clothing Co. - 4232 1233**
Large range of imported and top Australian New and Near New Designer labels by Chanel, DKNY, Saba, Calvin Klein, Moschino, Charlie Brown, Lisa Ho, George Cross, Armani. Designer labels at a fraction of the cost. Open 7 Days.
- Pieces of Dreams - 4232 3022**
Decoupage Ostrich Eggs, Cheraz rugs, leather hats, Australian made shirts, souvenirs, craft, local and imported gifts to suit all occasions.

- Pots of Taste - 4232 1149**
Bright and colourful range of pots, tassels and wall plaques, mobiles, windchimes and flower pot people, garden statues and fountains.
- Ritz Griz New Mexican Grill - 4232 1853**
New Mexican Cuisine. Home made desserts, dine or drink licence - Bar menu, margaritas, pina colodas our specialities. Bookings advisable.
- Sparkle & Hide - 4233 1700**
Specialising in quality leather. Jewellery for all tastes and ages. Beautiful evening bags, pashminas and hair accessories... and the unusual!
- Terrace Book Shop - 4232 3155**
The latest and the best books for adults and children, as well as classic CDs, prints and special orders.
- Terrace Glory Box - 4232 1147**
Specialising in exclusive gifts, beautiful novelties, fine bone china, lamps, lace and tablecloths, toiletries, Australian made souvenirs and much, much, more.
- The Terrace Gift Shoppe - 4232 1072**
Specialising in English sweets, beanie kids (exclusive), airplants, silver jewellery, Coalcraft (exclusive), Australian made T-shirts and hats, souvenirs, Kiddies Korner.



• A map depicting land grants in the Illawarra circa 1840.

Entertainment & Leisure

WHILE rural living was no doubt tough during the 1800s, the townsfolk did enjoy some leisure time.

Aside from church attendance and the respective events and social functions which were organised through each parish, there were many community groups which focused on the development of one's character. These included the Kiama Literary and Debating Society, the Kiama Young Men's Improvement Society, Kiama branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society, the Kiama Ladies Benevolent Association and the Total Abstinence Society, a well-meaning but poorly attended group which encouraged teetotalism.

Family entertainment came in the form of tea parties, 'pic-nics' and feasts put on by the local churches and schools. A popular venue for picnics in Kiama was at 'Mr Kendall's beach'.

Great effort was devoted to the organisation of community events and newspapers would devote entire paragraphs to the description of food and decorations alone.

Such social planning, however, could be thrown into utter chaos by the weather. As travel was by horse and buggy, and the roads were poor at the best of times, rain might spell disaster for the whole event.

"JAMBEROO - CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL FEAST - The annual school feast for the children attending the day and Sunday schools in connection with the Church of England at Jamberoo was held on Friday, the 21st instant. The school-room was tastefully decorated with bangles, ferns and flowers, and a picturesque alcove was constructed, under which was placed a chair for the Bishop, who was expected to be present, but owing to the unfavourable state of the weather, His Lordship was not able to attend."

Kiama Examiner, January 29, 1859

"SCHOOL OF ARTS: On Tuesday last, 'Young Kiama' was treated to an exhibition of views with the magic lantern (slide projector). Mr Semphill, of Penny Bank celebrity, kindly lent the lanterns and slides, and Mr Owen and Mr Meares manipulated... The right focus was, however, scarcely obtained and, unfortunately, towards the conclusion the lamps (which are kerosene) began to puff in an unaccountable way and, finally, put themselves out, refusing in the most obstinate and apparently premeditated manner, to keep up a steady light, and necessitating a termination of the entertainment before all the views had been shown."

The Examiner, March 25, 1862

EDITORIAL COMMENT

"...We have little interest in the defendant, and knowing the vexed spirit which moved the plaintiff in this, as in all cases where he seeks to spit his venom, we can assert that if meanness the most contemptible, vile directed avarice the most sordid, and vindictive characteristics of his miserable, pitiable disposition, he would never have summoned the defendant for 2s... To your kennel, or your fox den, and teach your whelps to bark and bite. Crawl on, relentless and unrepenting, to your grave, on the brink of which you totter; live on in the dark abyss of mental vexation and soul-destroying malevolence, and drag out the little remnant of your unhappy days illustrating Shylock's fate - living in hate, hated while living, and dying despised."

Kiama Examiner, January 8, 1859

"CHURCH OF ENGLAND SUNDAY SCHOOL FEAST - The feast in connection with the above school took place on Wednesday last...About 10 o'clock might have been observed bands of children hastening down to that happy little spot at Mr Kendall's beach, all eager to be there in time. At half past eleven o'clock there was a great number assembled, all watching most intensely the operations that were going on in the form of cutting up the cakes and spreading them out on trays...The teachers and friends did not keep them waiting long...A novice in feasts like this would wonder where the cakes were going - they seemed to vanish as if by magic; and tea! Chinamen would have stared had they seen the tea that was drunk."

Kiama Independent, November 17, 1866

"KIAMA YOUNG MEN'S IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY - It is with much pleasure that we announce the formal establishment of the above society at a meeting held in the court-house on Tuesday evening last - the Rev T Wilson in the chair. After a brief exposition of the rules of the society, and laying down its prime object, viz the improvement and culture of the minds of young men, with the view of enabling them to give fluent expression to their ideas, the chairman called upon Mr Robert Kendall to read his essay on the question 'Does Education Contribute to the Happiness of Man?'

Kiama Independent, October 13, 1864

"TOTAL ABSTINENCE MEETING - On Monday night, the advertised meeting of the Kiama Total Abstinence Society was held in the Court-house, under the presidency of Mr JW Dymock. The attendance was not very large at first...The Chairman said he regretted to see so little interest manifested by the people of Kiama in this movement. Their object was a worthy one, and the evil which they were endeavouring to put down a mighty one. Men of undoubted ability had in numbers of cases been ruined by indulgence in strong drink, and many happy homes had been broken up or rendered miserable by it."

Kiama Independent, March 15, 1866

Boxing Day was a highlight on the annual social calendar when the community united for horse-racing meets at Porters Garden Beach (Bombo) and Seven Mile Beach, Gerringong, and other social outings such as picnics when the centre of attention was firmly trained on acts of strength, skill and sporting prowess - a preoccupation of the time.

The following is an account of a Boxing Day race meeting held at Kiama in 1858.

"BOXING DAY IN KIAMA - Kiama presented a gay and stirring appearance on Monday morning last, horsemen were to be seen entering the town from all directions, slicked up in their 'Sunday-go-to-meeting' togs, many accompanied by buxom specimens of the fair sex of the neighbourhood. The morning broke thick and sultry, but this did not seem to weigh much with the pleasure seekers who seemed determined, even at the expense of a



• These two little girls pose for an early photograph - their identities are unknown. Before the turn of the century, travelling photographers visited the district, advertising their services in the local newspaper and setting their makeshift studios up in a hotel or other convenient venue.

wet jacket, to participate in the sport offered for the day... About half-past two o'clock, the horses were sent to the beach, but owing to the lateness of the ebb-tide, it was found near impossible to draw them to the post till near four. The sandy course looked very lively, some three or four hundred people being in attendance..."

Kiama Examiner, January 1, 1859

An account of the Boxing Day events held at Nowra provides an insight to community entertainment and answers the question as to how families amused themselves in the days before television. One might be inclined to feel that today's society missed out, somehow.

"BOXING DAY - Plum-puddings, pic-nics and polkas ruled the order of fun and frolic on that most pugnaciously named but peaceful Boxing Day. The Nowra steamer, hired for £10 by a committee, left Adams' Wharf freighted with 150 happy souls for Crookhaven Heads, carrying all manner of good things for the inner man, and a bagpiper to enliven their heels... At the Royal, Wheatley's of Numba, the sports were of more hearty nature and more Christmas like in their jocund style of enjoyment, such as climbing the well-greased pole (35 feet), hunting the pig, racing blindfolded with wheelbarrow foot races, and foot hurdle races, and dancing in the stable..."

Kiama Examiner, January 8, 1859

It appeared there was no end to the avenues of evening, adult entertainment. This ranged from the sedate piano and operatic recitals to visits by Ashton's Circus and the more bawdy amusement provided by travelling entertainers who amused the townsfolk with all manner of 'talents'.

"THE SABLE BROTHERS - This talented company will treat the inhabitants of Kiama to one of their laughter provoking, sidesplitting entertainments this evening, at the Kiama Hotel. On Monday evening they will wake the echoes of the little vil-under the mountains, Jamberoo. Look out ladies! For Heaven's sake, don't lace tight!"

Kiama Examiner, January 8, 1859

"JAMBEROO - Under the head of 'public amusements' I can only mention an unsuccessful

attempt by some wandering adventurers to get up an Ethiopian concert at Mr Law's Inn...lately well-filled night after night with the inhabitants of the vicinity, who witnessed with huge laughter and merriment the effects produced by the administration of proloxiide of nitrogen (laughing gas) on the saltatory and combative propensities of the individuals who submitted themselves to its operation."

Kiama Examiner, October 29, 1859

"ELECTROBIOLOGY - On Thursday evening, Professor Hansen lectured in the large room of the Steam Packet Hotel...Out of the small company, but seven submitted themselves to be operated upon. Of these, two were brought completely under the lecturer's influence, and other four partially so. The two thoroughly biologized were made to eat potatoes, believing they were apricots; to drink water believing it alternatively to be wine, vinegar, coffee, brandy, ginger-beer, ink and

soap suds; to mount a chair believing it a race horse...They were rendered perfectly rigid, made to feel pain in sundry parts of the body; again, bereft of all feeling in one of the members - so much so that amputation might take place without any suffering."

Kiama Examiner, December 31, 1859

BLUE HAVEN VILLAGE

Kiama Council's Blue Haven Village comprises 115 independent living units with an adjoining hostel and nursing home.

Planning for the latest addition, to be known as Stage 6, is well underway, with construction of additional independent living units to commence around June 2000.

For further information on lifestyle choices at Blue Haven Village, please contact Steve Dawson 4233 1714.



JAMBEROO BOWLING CLUB

Celebrating **50**

YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE GREATER JAMBEROO COMMUNITY IN 2000

And proud to be a part of this Historic Project

ALLOWRIE STREET, JAMBEROO

4236 0140

Information for Members and Their Guests

Sport & Human Endeavour

THE avenues for sport and recreation were not so varied as can be found today.

Back in the 1860s, cricket was a chief sport, alongside foot races which attracted a great deal of public attention, shooting matches, and ploughing matches when young men tested their strength for prizes while the respective property owners had their fields ploughed in double the time. Horse racing was also a popular past-time.

"SHOOTING MATCH - On last Tuesday afternoon, there came off a shooting match at the Blow-hole Point, for a horse, the property of Mr Adams, of the Steam Packet Hotel. The target was placed at a distance of one hundred yards. Seventeen shots were fired at £1 each shot... Mr William Smith, of Kiama, was the best marksman and won the horse."

Kiama Examiner, November 26, 1859

"JAMBEROO CRICKET MATCH: I have great pleasure in recording that a spirited attempt was made last Monday to get the noble game of cricket afloat once more in this locality. The advertisement relative to the matter produced a gathering much larger than anybody seemed to have expected, in Mr G. Wood's paddock, and the company would probably

have been considerably more numerous were it not for the circumstances that several of the young men of this neighbourhood were engaged in practising for the ploughing match."

The Examiner, April 11, 1860

"CRICKET: By telegram received yesterday forenoon, the Secretary of the Britannia Club is informed that the Illawarra eleven will be unable to play in Kiama tomorrow, as previously arranged. It is therefore likely that the match will not come off till Wednesday the 10th December. The following team will represent Kiama:- Messrs J Williams, G Miller, A Meares, C Abbott, J King, F Fredericks, T Fredericks, A Gordon, W Gordon, W Miller and D King."

The Examiner, November 25, 1862

"SPORTING - The footrace between W. Kelly and William Graham (of Jamberoo), which should have been run some weeks ago, and has ever since been a subject of dispute, more or less, among our sporting men, was at length run on Thursday last, on reserve at the back of English Church, and was won by Graham."

Kiama Independent, September 1, 1863



• This photograph, dated in the 1920s, featured some keen Gerringong tennis players of yesteryear. Does anyone recognise any relatives?

THE roads progressed to become a municipal headache for the governing council. Even when improvements were sanctioned, trouble was never far behind, as can be seen from this reference to the Pikes Hill road cutting.

"TOWN IMPROVEMENTS: We beg to draw the attention of His Worship the Mayor and the Council to the way in which the contractors are carrying out the work. From the time of its commencement to the present moment no attention whatever has been paid to that provision in the contract requiring that the road should be kept open for traffic. The earth has been put down in layers of from two to three feet thick across the whole breadth of the road and showing a broken perpendicular face, which it is sometimes difficult and even dangerous to get up or down with any vehicle. The dobbins used in carrying the earth are rattled along the road sometimes on one side, sometimes on the other, and sometimes down the middle without any regard to the convenience of the public."

The Examiner, December 8, 1860

"THE CUTTING ON PIKE'S HILL - The contractor for the cutting on Pike's Hill has commenced operations. Although much has been said against the work during the last municipal election, we think it is a work of equal importance, at least to those who traffic the road from Jamberoo to Kiama, to any other that might be undertaken. On the whole, there is not a hindrance more difficult to overcome than that presented by Pike's Hill."

The Examiner, February 22, 1860

"GERRINGONG - It is generally expected that the application to Messrs Gray and Hindmarsh for permission to change the Fox Ground road through their estates will be refused, and the Municipal Council being tardy in doing anything to this chain of holes called a road, those using it are at their wits end, showering anything but blessings on the council."

The Examiner, March 24, 1860
Against a backdrop of calls for separation, Kiama Council struck

problems with its rates. An oversight in the Municipalities Act meant that rates were not enforceable by law and council, in sending out its rates notices, was accused of attempting to "obtain money under false pretences".

An 'Anti-Municipal' movement, led by Captain Samuel Charles and supported by some highly notable municipal citizens, called - unsuccessfully - for the disbanding of the council.

Kiama Council struggled along in the meantime until a Municipalities Amendment Act was passed in 1868, thus alleviating the rates problem.

"THE LATE ANTI-MUNICIPAL MEETING - The following are the resolutions proposed and declared to be passed at the meeting held on Tuesday, 23rd ult.:-

1. That the meeting considers that the operation of the Municipality of Kiama has, from the first, been unsatisfactory; that it is not entitled to the confidence of the ratepayers, and that this meeting pledges itself to use all lawful means to remove the present obstructive and illegally constituted Municipal Council.
2. That a subscription list be now

opened to defray any expenses that may be incurred in carrying out this foregoing resolution; and that the following gentlemen be requested to form a committee for the purpose of speedily bringing the question to an issue in the Supreme Court of New South Wales: Thomas Chapman, Michael Hindmarsh, David Berry, James M. Gray, Thomas Kendall, James Robb, Alexander King, James Emery, James Marks, jun, Robert Morrow, sen, JK Waldron, John Cullen, John Tate, David Smith, John Farraher, Thomas McIntyre, Hugh Mitchell, James Armstrong, sen, George Gray, Samuel Charles, Thomas Black, Thomas Fuller, treasurer... all those above named are ready and willing to assist in the movement by every means in their power."

Kiama Independent, March 8, 1864

The influx of residents to Kiama increased dramatically during the 1850s and into the 1860s.

The Kiama Census of 1862 states that 5486 people lived in Kiama Municipality, an increase of 1603 on the 1856 Census when 3883 people were recorded.

In 1862, most residents were largely natives of the colony, the majority hailing from Ireland (1437) and England (934), followed by Scotland (285), leaving "...180 as the amount of foreign population among us" (The Examiner, 1862).

In an age break down, 2619 were aged under 15 years while, at the other end of the scale, only six had made it past their 80th year.

A total 693 children were listed as attending school, while 124 were receiving instruction from home.

Some 566 children aged five to 15 years could read and write, 416 could only read, and 308 could neither read nor write.

Beyond the age of 15, 2225 could read and write, 496 could read only and 272 could do neither.

THE SUFFERER'S BEST FRIEND.



HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.

A favourite 'cure-all' during the 1800s was Holloway's Pills & Ointment. An advertised list of the supposed ailments 'cured' provides an insight into the common ills of the day. These included:

- rheumatism, scrofula, erysipelas;
- King's Evil, fever sores, stiff joints;
- bad breasts; sore nipples;
- piles and fistulas;
- bad legs;
- pimples, blotches and other facial discolourations;
- bunions; mosquito and sandfly bites;
- chapped hands; corns; cancers;
- gout; lumbago;
- scurvy; and
- the encrusted sores which sometimes disfigure the heads and faces of children.

(Kiama Examiner, January 15, 1859)

SERVING JAMBEROO FOR OVER 75 YEARS



Free Range Chickens & Eggs
Stationery Special Orders
Specialty Gourmet Foods
3 Allowrie St, Jamberoo - 4236 0185

PREMATURE BURIAL

"M. DE LAGUERNNIERE presented a petition to the Senate on Tuesday from a person named De Cornol, 'pointing out the danger of hasty interments, and suggesting the measures he thought requisite to avoid terrible consequences'. Among other things, the petitioner demands that the space of twenty-four hours between the decease and the interment, now prescribed by law, should be lengthened to forty-eight hours; that an electrical apparatus should be kept in the sacristy of each church, and that the parish priests and their curates should be taught how to work it; that the body should, after the lapse of forty-eight hours, be submitted to the last and powerful electric test; that the solid wooden coffins should be done away with, and replaced by a covering of canvas, to be lifted up the moment the remains are laid in the grave in order to ascertain, beyond all possibility of doubt, that life is completely extinct, and that what appears to be death is not merely a lethargic sleep."

Kiama Independent, May 31, 1866

DRUNKENNESS

"How sad and distressingly humiliating to see man 'made after God's own image', defiling that image by the soul-destroying sin of drunkenness, rendering too, both mind and body degradingly unfit to fulfil the great duties and responsibilities, which the wisdom of that God gave to him, the light and blessings of reason to carry out. How any one possessed of a sound mind can so far forget the solemn obligation due to the Almighty and his fellow man, as by his own wilful act to render himself incapable of fulfilling them, is a painful mystery; to do so is an insult to the Creator, an injury to the community, and the vile destroyer of both soul and body...instead of treating it as a crime punishable by fine or imprisonment, it should be treated as a disease, the unhappy sufferer should be sent to a hospital, or a portion of Tarban Creek mad-house specially appropriated for the purpose...If this policy were adopted, much crime and many heart-rending scenes of family distress and destitution would be prevented."

Kiama Examiner, January 8, 1859



Religion

ONE of the first buildings of substance to be erected in any town was that of a church.

The Kiama Census of 1862 states that majority of the 5486 local residents were of the Church of England faith (2139), followed by 1405 Roman Catholics, 922 Presbyterian, 885 Methodist, 36 Congregationalist, 90 other Protestants, and 5 Hebrews.

Aside from spiritual guidance, the first churches delivered social entertainment in the forms of church-related 'picnics' and feasts, while also providing the valuable service of education before the first National schools became commonplace.

A Church of England, built at Jamberoo in 1842, was the first church built in the valley. A Presbyterian Church followed the same year.

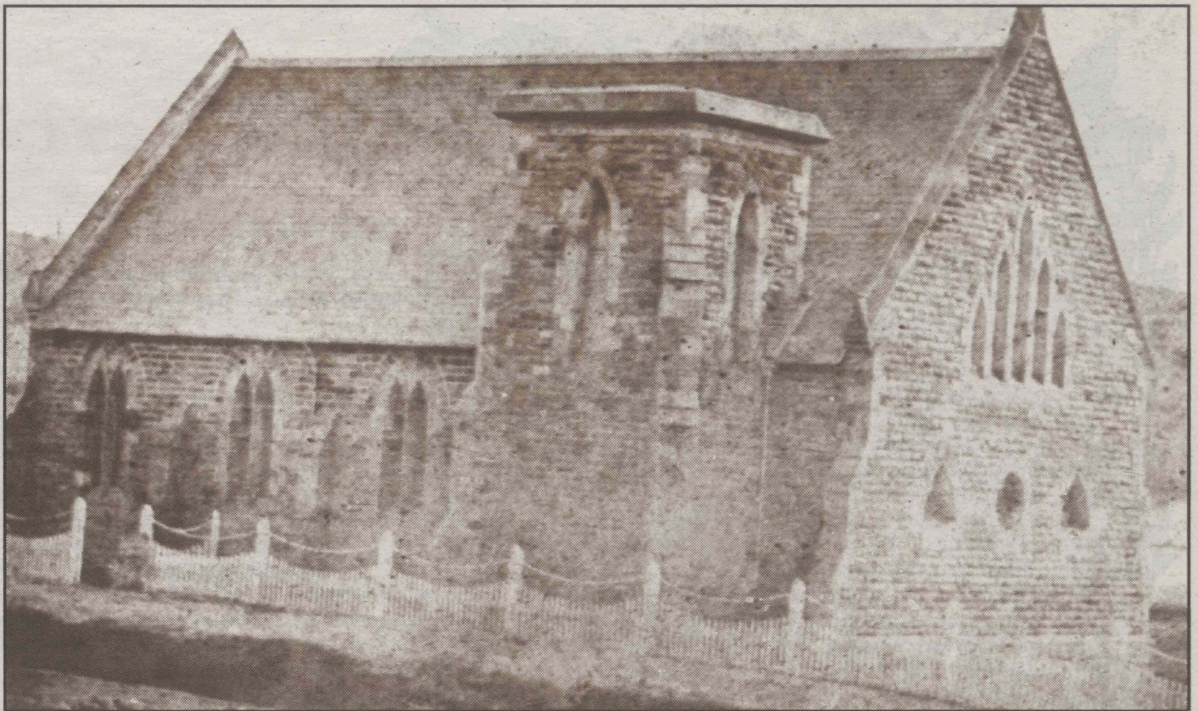
In Kiama, the first church - a

Church of England - was built in 1843 on the south-east corner of Manning and Bong Bong Streets (replaced by Christ Church on Church Point in 1857).

This was followed by the Free Presbyterian Church in 1848 on the corner of Terralong and Minnamurra Streets. The first Wesleyan church was built in 1850 on the north-east corner of Manning and Bong Bong Streets while the Roman Catholic Church was built in Manning Street in 1858.

At Gerringong, a Wesleyan church was built in 1850, followed by the Presbyterian Church which was completed in 1854, and the Church of England in 1856. The first Roman Catholic Chapel was opened in 1866.

"CHRIST CHURCH, KIAMA - Pursuant to law and custom, a meeting of the parishioners and seat holders of this church was held on



• The Kiama Presbyterian Church - before the addition of the spire.

Easter Monday, for the election of church wardens and other business. Owing to the inclemency of the weather, the meeting was but thinly

attended. The Rev T Wilson, incumbent of the parish, president. The retiring wardens were Messrs Gray, Pike and John King; and Messrs

Gray, R Kendall, and W Budd were elected for the ensuing year."

Kiama Independent, May 2, 1867

COLONIAL education was delivered in several forms during the 1800s. Instruction was either via church-run or government-based ('National') schools, private instruction from home, and estate-based schools when landowners hired a teacher for the children of tenants working their land.

Other schools such as Miss Hindmarsh's school for young ladies operated at Gerringong, while Miss Hustler ran a private school in Kiama.

The first church in Jamberoo valley, the Church of England, incorporated a school from 1842, while a Presbyterian Sabbath School was opened the same year.

In Kiama, the Church of England served as an Anglican denominational school, while schools were also attached to the Free Presbyterian Church, Wesleyan Church and Roman Catholic Church.

At Gerringong, schools were attached to the Presbyterian and Wesleyan Churches while the first National school was built following a series of meetings in the 1850s.

The first National school in the district appears to have been built at Jerrara Creek in 1858 followed by another in Kiama which was opened in 1861 but was closed several times until its demise in 1867.

Soon after, a movement was underway for the construction of a new Kiama national school (today's 'Infants' School'). Plans were drawn and the community began fundraising for its construction.

"SCHOOL EXAMINATION: Yesterday a public examination of

Miss Hustler's school was held in the school-room in Terralong-street. The Rev Mr Kinross undertook the duty of examining, and questioned the

pupils in history, geography, grammar and other branches of their study, putting questions on different subjects as they occurred to him. At the conclusion, he... congratulated Miss Hustler on the success attending her system of instruction, and said that such a school was a great advantage to the district. Mr John Marks and Mr Colley the Mayor, also expressed the pleasure they felt at witnessing such a creditable display."

The Examiner, June 16, 1860
 "GERRINGONG: The Mount Pleasant School has re-opened, and will likely be carried on at least until the opening of the National school which the local patrons wish to take place in five or six weeks. Talking of schools, reminds me of another examination I had the pleasure of being present at last week; but as it was less public as the one recorded some time since, and of rather an humble character, I did not mention; yet less noteworthy events often furnish matter for country correspondents. In an old hut, on Mr Milligan's farm, for the last nine months, the academy has flourished under the care of an invalid soldier who, though not a great scholar, has shown himself apt to teach the elements of knowledge."

The Examiner, September 1, 1860
 "NATIONAL SCHOOL - The

Education

patrons and the committee appointed at the public meeting held in the Court-house last week, met on Friday evening at the Kiama Store, to arrange for taking round subscription lists, and ascertain what the public are willing to give towards this necessary erection. It was stated at the public meeting that the Central Board in Sydney thought the school in Kiama should be something more than an ordinary National School; that whilst it would impart instruction to children of the poorer classes on the most moderate terms, and to those in extreme poverty free, yet it should be such a school as that those who desire to give their children a better education, either to fit them for commercial life or going to college..."

Kiama Independent, November 17, 1863

"OMEGA RETREAT PUBLIC SCHOOL - A musical and literary entertainment was on Wednesday last given by the teachers and pupils of this school to a large and appreciative audience of parents and friends..."

Independent of the school, not less than 200 persons were present; every available part of the building being crowded to excess, thus evincing a healthy and commendable interest in the education of the young."

Kiama Independent,

December 26, 1867

"PUBLIC SCHOOL - We had the opportunity yesterday of inspecting the designs for the Kiama Public School, which have been made out by the architect to the Council of Education, and forwarded to Dr Taylor. Their style is the Old English, or Domestic-Gothic, and the buildings, if erected accordingly,

would be no small ornament to the town of Kiama."

Kiama Independent, February 6, 1868

"PUBLIC SCHOOL - Tenders have been opened for the proposed new school buildings... The opinion is that the lowest tender viz £670 (£120 higher than the estimates), is after all remarkably low considering the many details of the work and the excellence of the job."

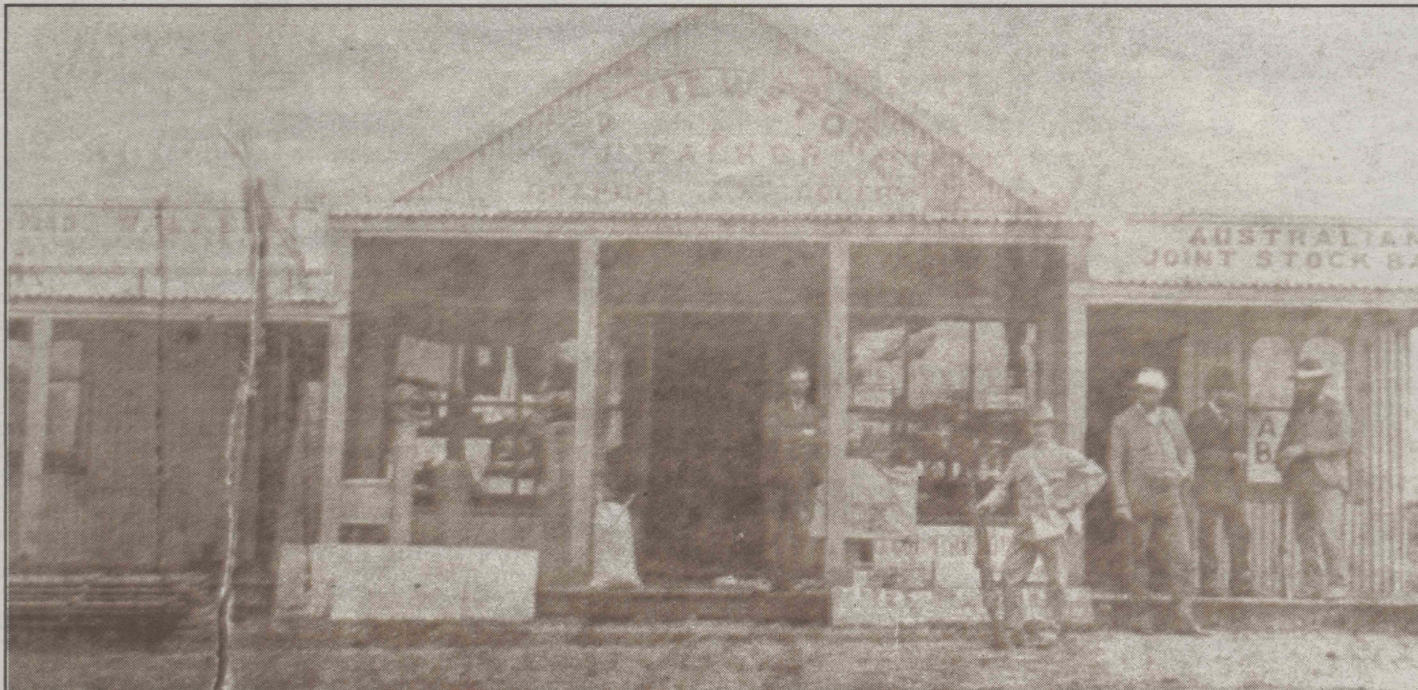
Kiama Independent, November 18, 1869

Tight Lacing

"The injurious effect of tight lacing has often been pointed out, and in England, at least, women have pretty generally learned to see the danger, if not always the hideousness, of those wasp-waists so highly prized..."

If we compare the tightness of women's stays with the tightness of a man's dress, we shall easily form a conception of the serious obstacle stays must be on the efficient breathing; and the injurious effect of this insufficient breathing consists in its inducing a depression of all the vital functions."

Kiama Examiner, February 12, 1859



• The Sea View Store at Gerringong was located on the site of the ANZ Bank. It was run by J Walker while Miss Walker ran a millinery shop to the left. The Australian Joint Stock Bank Agency is on the right.

GERRINGONG BOWLING and RECREATION CLUB Ltd
 PHONE 4234 1414 by the sea at Warri Beach

MARCH ENTERTAINMENT

4th March **Tumeke Duo**
 11th March **Jive House**
 18th March **Woody**
 25th March **Quini**

HIGH SEA RESTAURANT

• RESTAURANT OPEN SEVEN DAYS
 • ALL WELCOME •
 Bistro Open 7 days from 12-2pm and Friday Night 6-8pm

CLUB BUS NOW AVAILABLE

Please phone the club for more information on 4234 1414
 Visitors must be in company of a member or be a member of a registered club



The days of gas lar

PAULINE McGrath's earliest and fondest memories involve gadding about the streets of Kiama, revelling in the day to day life of a small community.

Born in Bong Bong Street on June 22, 1909, Pauline can recall a time when south Manning Street was just a track and the highlight of her evening was watching a council worker light the gas lamps that lined her street.

Significantly, Pauline, 90, also enjoys a proud family heritage.

She is one of the last surviving grandchildren of German immigrants, Anton and Christina Ettingshausen, who migrated to Australia in 1855, settling first at Nowra before arriving in Kiama.

Anton was a builder/cabinet maker and undertaker by trade and he passed this profession on to his sons Henry (Pauline's father), Peter, Jack and Martin. (Daughters were Sabina, Annie and Julia.)

Many of Kiama's basalt buildings are the legacy of the Ettingshausen name, including the Pilots Cottage (built 1881), Post Office tower (1879) and renovations to the Masonic Hall. Further afield, Anton built the Berry Courthouse and Peterborough School and schoolhouse at Swamp Road, Dunmore.

Of all the Ettingshausen sons, Pauline's father, Henry, was the only one who remained in Kiama to continue his father's business.

Henry married Annie Taper at the former St Peter's Catholic Church, Kiama, in 1878, and they had five children Mary ("Lennie"), Anton, Cecil, Herbert ("Herbie") and Pauline, and one adopted child, Leo.

Pauline was the 'baby' of the family, born in her mother's 44th year and 19 years after fourth born Herbie.

The family home - which operated as a boarding house - was built in Bong Bong Street, on the site of the Gibsons Motel, next to the Kiama Showground.

Annie ran the boarding house with her children while Henry worked in the building industry and in his role as undertaker.

"Dad was very proud of his work and devoted many hours to each coffin," Pauline said.

"The coffins were built of either cedar and oak, or pine. First, the timber was planed before cuts were made in the timber at 'shoulder height'. Boiling water was poured over the timber so it could be bent into shape and then the edges were sealed with pitch and the bottoms lined with sawdust.

"My father polished all the cedar coffins, by hand, with linseed oil and shellac. When the coffins were finished they were just like mirrors and woe betide anyone who put their fingers on them!"

"The cedar coffins were the most expensive while the pine coffins were cheaper and were lined with black fabric for adults and blue or white fabric for babies."

Pauline said that, perhaps because she was so young, she did not regard the coffins as morbid.

"I loved watching Dad make the coffins. I especially liked it when he planed off long curls of shavings. I'd pin them under my hat and pretend I had long hair!"

"In those days, there were no funeral parlours. The bodies were left in the person's house.

"Dad would take a coffin out in his spring cart

and the body would stay in the house for viewing until the funeral when Dad would return with the hearse. He'd wear a black top hat and tails, dark grey striped trousers and white gloves. Two black draught horses pulled the hearse.

"As there were no motorised hearses or cars at the time, it took a long time to reach the cemetery.

"Dad was thankful that he left the industry before the first motorised hearse was brought in. He used to say, 'It looks like they want to get rid of a person in a hurry'.

"Dad also served as the undertaker for the Kiama Cottage Hospital. I rode with him to the hospital one night in the sulky with a seat across the front and a little blue coffin on it for a baby who had died. It was brought back to the house and taken to Jamberoo the next morning for burial."

Pauline said that her father was not the only member of the family who was called out in the middle of the night. Her mother, a midwife, was often called upon to assist with local deliveries.

"I remember the doctor taking Mum by horse and sulky to a cave at Kendalls Beach where an Aboriginal woman was having trouble delivering a baby. Mum always used to say that she never lost a baby or a mother."

Pauline has many fond memories of her family's boarding house and the jovial atmosphere in which it operated.

"Mum used to decorate the tables with linen and an old silver service, flowers, candles and cruets with the condiments. I used to love twirling them around.

"The children would play music for the guests while they were eating and then some dance music for after dinner. My sister, Lennie, played the piano and my brothers played the violin. Mum and dad loved dancing. Dad used to put me on his shoulders and dance me around the room."

Pauline said that the home's location afforded the family the best view in town of the annual Kiama Show.

"There used to be special trains during show time and we'd sit and watch the people come down in their fashions, their hats and gloves, shoes and stockings. The cattle would all be brought to the cattle yards and everyone would visit with their buckets and milk the cows after they'd been judged.

"But the part we liked best was the merry-go-round. The owner used to stay with us during showtime and he'd give us rides for free!"

Pauline recalled a time when gas lamps lined the local streets.

"I liked watching the man come before dark with his long stick with a hook to pull the light on. There was one outside our house. Then he would come back in the morning and pull it off."

She added that there were no footpaths in Bong Bong Street "in the good old days", just pine trees and deep gutters in which the children played.

"It was a lovely place to hide and have 'wars' with the other children. We made swords out of the long Norfolk Pine spikes. We peeled back the ends and pulled out the centre for an instant scabbard and from

which we brandished our

charged to the other side of

Another treat was wait

make a delivery.

"The delivery man used



• A grand lady indeed! Pauline on the verandah of her Manni



• Pauline's family are pictured in 1914. They are (standing from left) Cecil, mother Annie, Herbie, (front) Leo, father Henry, Pauline, Lennie and her daughter Pauline.



Through the Years...

The Brighton Hotel was renowned as a meeting place for local farmers where they met and ate after attending their business when the ships brought supplies to Kiama Harbour and then transported their own produce to the city. They always used the Brighton, as it represented friendliness, good service and good value... and to this day, it still does.

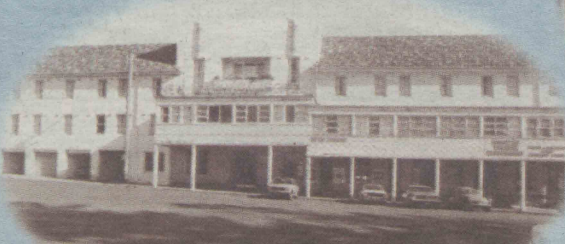
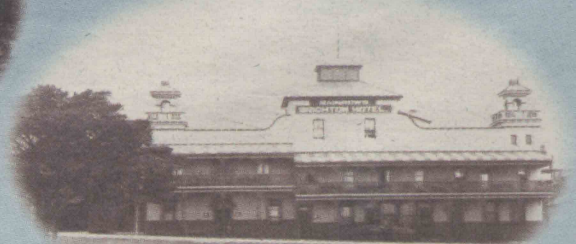


"Where a good meal was to be had for one shilling"

Bob and Rhonda Thistle and their staff continue the tradition with service and true value for customers into the year 2000.

The Brighton...

A significant part of Kiama's past and future...



Terralong Street, Kiama

Harbourside
BRIGHTON
RESTAURANT

Opposite Kiama Harbour 4232 2799

...camps and ice carts



'swords' whenever we
the street."
ng for the ice cart to
o break a block in half

"When there was no music going, you'd be sitting there and everyone would be eating peanuts and dropping the shells on the floor. Whenever anyone got up and moved around all you'd hear is 'crunch, crunch'."

Pauline was schooled at the former St Peter's Catholic Convent in Manning Street and recalls it as being "an old weatherboard place with rough floors".

"Sister would tell us to take our shoes off in the heat and we'd get splinters in our feet and she'd have to get them out. It was one big class with three nuns and another nun in the convent who taught music.

"Father Malone was very good to us. For the August 15 picnic he'd give us two shillings to go down on the train to Gerringong for the picnic at Jubilee Oval. Some of the bigger kids used to save the money, though, and walk along the tracks instead."

Pauline's world was idyllic until 1914 when WWI - 'the war to end all wars' - was declared.

"I was frightened during the war. I would get out of my bed and get in between Mum and Dad because I thought the Germans would come over in their Zeppelins and drop gas bombs on us. I told Dad they were roaring over our house but he said it was only the ocean."

A soldiers' camp was established at the Showground and Chapman's Point as a base for service training. Pauline said the soldiers' camps had open days on Sunday when the townsfolk could visit.

"We'd go over and the soldiers would give us these lovely jam rolls which I thought was wonderful. The men also enjoyed coming to the house and singing ditties around the piano. They'd called my mother 'Mum', perhaps because she reminded them of their own mothers. She'd always serve them up some scones for supper.

"Father McNamara had a great marquee at the church and he'd organise mass and a concert for the soldiers.

"It was very sad to see the boys go off to war. All the townspeople would go up to the railway station to see them off. The band would be there and Percy Grundy would play the tin whistle.

"When any of them came home injured, we would go to the station with everyone singing to welcome them home and then there was a party with a big welcome home cake in the middle of the table and the band playing.

"Mum said it was very sad when one saw the priest going to the house with the news someone in the family had been killed, or to see the postman coming with a black edged envelope with the telegram in it."

For Pauline, there was no news more devastating than learning of the loss of her brother, Herbie, who was killed in action.

Pauline adored Herbie, particularly because he spent so much time with her when she was young.

"He used to take me down the street on his shoulders and buy me treats. On pay day, he would buy mum some sweets - frosted caramels, as I recall, and some

cream horns for himself. Then he'd go to bed with a book and these cream horns sitting in a bag on his chest.

"He'd read the book with me sitting on his tummy, watching him eating these cream horns. He'd say, 'You don't like these, do you?' He'd always give me one. But not before teasing me a little longer."

Pauline said that when war was declared, Herbie tried desperately to enlist but was knocked back repeatedly because of a knee injury from playing football.

"He even tried to get someone to enlist for him," Pauline said. "Eventually, he travelled to Newcastle and enlisted there."

"He sent me pretty cards from different places and a photo of him on a camel and of a little boy who looked after him, cleaning his boots. He said he was going to bring his little black boy home with him to look after me, but he never came home.

"Mum never believed he was dead, even up until the day she died. She visited all the Army hospitals in Sydney and had the Red Cross making enquiries, but all to no avail. When she was dying she said she saw Herbie standing at the foot of her bed.

"The day word came that Herbie was killed, I was down at the convent with the nuns. I had been picking flowers that grew all over the hill and down to the beach. When I got home, Mum told me about Herbie. I said to her 'Don't cry. I'll put these flowers on my little altar and Our Lady will look after Herbie for us'."

Following the war, the mood of the nation improved and the world moved on to the happier years of the 'roaring' 1920s.

Pauline loved the Charleston dancing craze but admits that she was a 'surfy chick' at heart and even owned a surfboard which was made for her by one of the local boys.

"A lot of the boys had surfboards - they were an inch thick, five feet long and heavy as lead when they were wet. I never stood up - I just kneeled. I really loved surfing.

"The swimming was segregated. The women swam in a little pool in the rocks near Pheasant Point while the men swam in the Rock Pool near the Boat Harbour. But this never stopped us from flirting across the harbour."

Pauline recalls the first time she met her beloved husband, Vince. She was travelling to Braidwood with her mother to visit a family friend following the death of her father in 1926.

"We were to be picked up by this lady's son, Paddy, at Nowra. Anyway, Vince came too - he'd just arrived home from Teachers' College. We were travelling in the car and Paddy said, 'Let's sing some songs, and we started singing *My Blue Heaven*. The next thing I knew, Vince and I were holding hands!"

The couple were married at St Peter's Church on September 3, 1932, after which Pauline followed Vince around the state as he took up various teaching positions.

Vince had teaching in his blood and, even in his retirement, he and Pauline delighted in attending the Mass and concerts staged by the children of St Peter and Paul School.



• Pauline, aged 7, dressed for a Kiama parade - "I was scared stiff I'd fall off the float".



Pauline McGrath, 90, relaxes on Manning Street home.

where and we'd be on to
er quaint aspects of her

se in Manning Street; it
er family. Sometimes,
d, they would sit me up
h them work. Further
orse and carriage stable
hire."

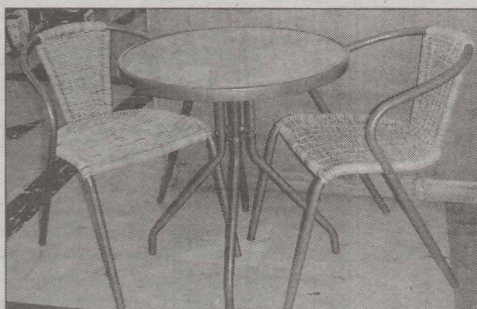
he treats was attending
her father on Saturday
ll, which was located on
agues Club.

rson, used to play the
and Roy Colley played
its.



MARCH PRICE REDUCTIONS

KIAMA SUPPLY CO.
100 YEARS OLD
AND STILL
GOING STRONG



3 PIECE BISTRO SETTING
1 table,
2 chairs.
Ideal for
beside the
pool or
balcony.

WAS \$269

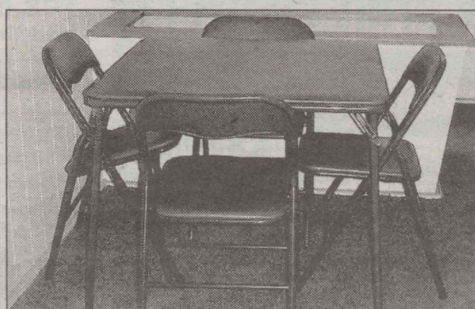
NOW \$189



FIESTA COMFORT CHAIR
Easy 1 step
folding and
store away, in
blue, green
or daisy
pattern.

WAS \$69⁹⁵

NOW \$49⁹⁵



5 PIECE FOLDING TABLE & CHAIRS
All padded
for extra
comfort,
folds easily
for portability
& storage.

WAS \$139⁹⁵

NOW \$99⁹⁵

KIAMA SUPPLY COMPANY

100 TERRALONG STREET, KIAMA

PHONE 4232 1633



52613

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified advertising was not unlike today's format. It included 'work wanted' ads, 'for sales', 'lost and founds', and promotions for local shops. Also featured was advertising by larger shops located in Sydney for the fine wares which were unavailable in remote, country towns such as Kiama.

NOTICE

A. MORRISON begs to inform the residents of Kiama that he is now in the position which will enable him to execute every description of work in the Blacksmith and Wheelwright line in a style which he will guarantee equal, if not superior, to any other establishment in the Illawarra. Terralong-street, next to Mr Hukins' Four-in-Hand Inn. KE 15.1.59

*** **

MORRIS JACOBS AND CO.

TAILORS, WOOLLEN
DRAPERS

AND

GENERAL OUTFITTERS

434 George Street

Between the White Horse and Royal
Hotels

STOREKEEPERS AND
SETTLERS SUPPLIED

*** **

GO TO THE PARK STORES

F. HALL

SHOALHAVEN STREET
FOR

DRAPERY, MANTLES, SHAWLS,
AND FANCY GOODS,

FOR

FASHIONABLE, SERVICEABLE AND
SEASONAL CLOTHING

*** **

Peacocks for Sale

Two male birds of matchless beauty, one pure white, the other of the usual brilliant and gaudy plumage, the latter a great pet and used to strut about all alone in his pride, and the white one quite tame and docile. Either would ornament the lawn of a prince. Price £2 each. Apply to Mr Coser, auctioneer, Shoalhaven.

*** **

NOTICE

THERE has been running on my farm for the last seven weeks a yellow and white cow, branded JW on the right side of the rump, and W on the right thigh. The owner may have the same by paying expenses.

WILLIAM TIMBS
Jerara Creek, Kiama

*** **

TAKE NOTICE - There is NO ROAD through my farm, known as the Toll-bar, adjoining the Presbyterian Burial Ground, Kiama. Trespassers will be prosecuted according to law.

HENRY GRAY

(*Kiama Examiner*, 1859)

Kiama Harbour



• An artist's impression of the view of the Kiama harbour - complete with visiting paddle steamer - in 1855.

UNTIL the late 1850s, Kiama Harbour existed in its natural state with paddle steamers visiting regularly, bringing passengers and supplies and exporting local produce via the Kiama Steam Navigation Company which was formed in 1853.

Passengers and cargo were ferried back and forth to Black Beach in a smaller, connecting boat, disembarking at a point just beyond the Kiama Presbyterian Church. The activity was overseen by an old figtree which stood on the site as a local landmark for another century before it was destroyed in a storm in 1964.

With time, it became apparent that improvements to the harbour, namely the construction of a formal basin and jetty, were vital to the success of agriculture and commerce in Kiama.

Efforts to bring the project to fruition, however, proved long and arduous. A period of almost 20 years elapsed before the official opening of the harbour in 1876.

The lack of progress prompted an outcry from locals who saw themselves as being treated as country cousins to those of the cities and major inland towns who were attracting the

lion's share of funding for roads and railroad projects. Once funding was secured, repeated problems and an apparent unwillingness by the Government to intervene led to questions about that the Minister for Works' commitment to bringing the project to fruition.

"OUR HARBOUR - We were informed some months ago that part of the basin was to be dammed and the hill blasted, in order to test the quality of the rock for holding water, and after that waiting some time for the reports we were told there was no blasting powder to be had, and still we are kept in suspense, perhaps from the same deficiency. Really this is too bad. Money and materials, the powder and shot of all public works can be found for railroads, bridges and sundry other improvements to enhance the values of the princely domains of lordly squatters in the far interior, or approaching their households; but the more humble - but no less industrious nor deserving farmers of Kiama - must wait..."

Kiama Examiner,
April 16, 1859

An update...
"OUR HARBOUR - The inhabitants of Kiama, its neigh-

bourhood, and the entire district of Illawarra, will have seen with pleasure that £30,000 are placed on the estimates for our harbour and £26,000 for that of Wollongong."

Kiama Examiner,
October 15, 1859

"THE HARBOUR WORKS: The men employed at the harbour ave now been kept for more than a week in a state of compulsory idleness. The ostensible cause of this state is the want of steel for drilling. But whence arises this want? We cannot suppose that the necessary article is not to be found in Sydney: and we are very much afraid that there is grievous mismanagement, neglect, or perhaps, some kind of corrupt jobbery in the matter. It is a serious thing in more respects than one, that some eighty men, willing and anxious to work, should be kept hanging in idleness."

Kiama Independent,
August 11, 1863

"THE HARBOUR WORKS: The contractor for the above-named undertaking, Mr Hughes, had scarcely resumed his former position when it was found that the engine which had been used to work the pump and for other purposes, was not sufficiently powerful for the work now required of it.

As a consequence of this, nothing at the harbour has been hitherto done since the contract was taken."

Kiama Independent,
September 8, 1864

"HARBOUR WORKS - The works at the breakwater remain still in a most unsatisfactory state. No progress is being made in the operations of blasting &c, and the men who were employed are wandering in idleness about the town.

Kiama Independent,
February 9, 1865

"THE TIMBER JETTY - A beginning is at length made on the timber jetty at the harbour."

Kiama Independent,
September 14, 1865

"HARBOUR WORK - The excavation necessary to allow punts &c, to be secured moored in the basin during the process of erecting the cofferdam, had proceeded as far as was practicable without some contrivance for working under water. This contrivance, called a dredging spoon, has been supplied. Yesterday was the first day of its active operation, and so admirably did it answer the purpose that six men succeeded in filling 15 wagons with clay and stones from under water."

Kiama Independent,
November 5, 1868

The elements

THE flimsy nature of local buildings and a preoccupation for cultivating crops unsuited to the Kiama climate left the early settlers exposed to the whim of the weather and saw them face immense heartache on a regular basis.

Winds, storms and lightning could destroy the homes, rains could spoil the wheat crops, frosts could ruin the cane, and long periods of hot weather jeopardised the crops that were left. The clearing of vegetation exacerbated problems of run-off and flooding during periods of heavy rain and 'flood appeals' were commonplace during the mid-1800s.

"THE LATE FOG - A fog exceedingly dense enveloped this town on the forenoon of last Monday. We so seldom down

here see anything of the kind that some may have felt a little alarmed. Its density was such that the eye could not discern an object at the distance of but a few paces...It brought with it no calamity, save one of a slight nature. The usual mail was not dispatched by the steamer that day, as the steamer could not be recognised from the post-office...Had we had a large bell on the jetty, such as that at Wollongong, we would have been saved this annoyance."

Kiama Examiner,
November 5, 1859

DESTRUCTIVE THUNDER STORM

The Lanterrick Hotel Struck by Lightning

"On Thursday evening we were visited by a thunder storm which, though not of long con-

tinuance, was very severe and has left traces of the terrible power of electricity in the injury it has inflicted on the new and handsome Lanterrick Hotel, the successor of the old Gerringong Arms. The most vivid flash that came in the storm did the mischief. It first struck the flagstaff, and from it entered the house, tearing off a lot of the weatherboards from the southern gable, smashing all the glass in five of the windows, some of the sashes being thrown out a considerable distance on the road. The shock broke all that was breakable on the table, at which a family of lodgers were sitting, and flung open the folding doors of the large room...splinters were struck into the wall, opposite the side of the house that met the shock, and one pierced right through

the pillow of the sofa, pinning it to its place."

The Examiner,
November 26, 1861

"THE 'wild west wind' which seems to be here, as on the Mediterranean, 'the breath of autumn's being', has during the last few days given this district a most unwelcome taste of its quality. For three days and nights at least, it continued howling, raving and roaring through the air in a manner that never fails to cause infinite discomfort and inconvenience...Trees have been blown up by the roots, fences smashed, doors, shutters and other appendages of bush dwellings torn from their places, bark roofs carried off &c. &c."

Kiama Independent,
May 18, 1865

Kiama's complete copy & print centre!

We offer a range of services, including: photocopying • plan printing • digital laser printing • large format printing • binding • laminating • business cards • letterheads • invoice/receipt books • flyers & delivery

For fast, friendly service call
Carl or Gerry on
4232 3656
1/126 Terralong St, Kiama

Colonial Law & Order

IN outlining the picture of law and order in the Kiama Municipality back in 1860, one can't help but feel a sense of deja vu.

Kiama had two police officers working in the district by this time, but their inability to service the Gerringong area in a prompt and efficient fashion led to a campaign by the southern residents for their own police station.

Their claims that the area was developed enough to warrant permanent police presence, however, went unmet by the Government for several years to come.

A court system operated in Kiama by 1832 on a monthly basis, a magistrate visiting from Wollongong to conduct sessions in a military barracks.

By 1861, following the opening of the new Kiama Court House, the Kiama Police Court, Kiama Court of Petty Sessions and Kiama Licensing Court (a well-utilised system given the number of hotels in the district) was in full swing.

Coronial inquests were also conducted, but were usually held on site, at the home or on the estate where the death took place.

The majority of court cases related to obscene language and drunkenness - the bottle being a much publicly maligned yet, apparently, greatly utilised beverage consumed by some of the more colourful characters of the township.

Theft was also common while cases of domestic violence were given a full and graphic going over, no doubt providing plenty of fodder for local gossip.

Disputes between employers and their staff were sometimes settled in the courtroom, particularly in matters related to theft or of servants absconding from their posts. Servants were taken on under the terms of the Masters & Servants Act and problems arose when they abused these terms or left before the expiration of their contract.

From the newspaper articles, we also know that a spousal maintenance system was in effect - one man, in 1861, being ordered to pay his estranged wife 15s (15 cents) a week for the next 12 months after turning her out into the street.

In 1864 we are also exposed to the case of a young, unmarried Gerringong woman who was tried and convicted on a charge of 'concealing the birth of her child'.

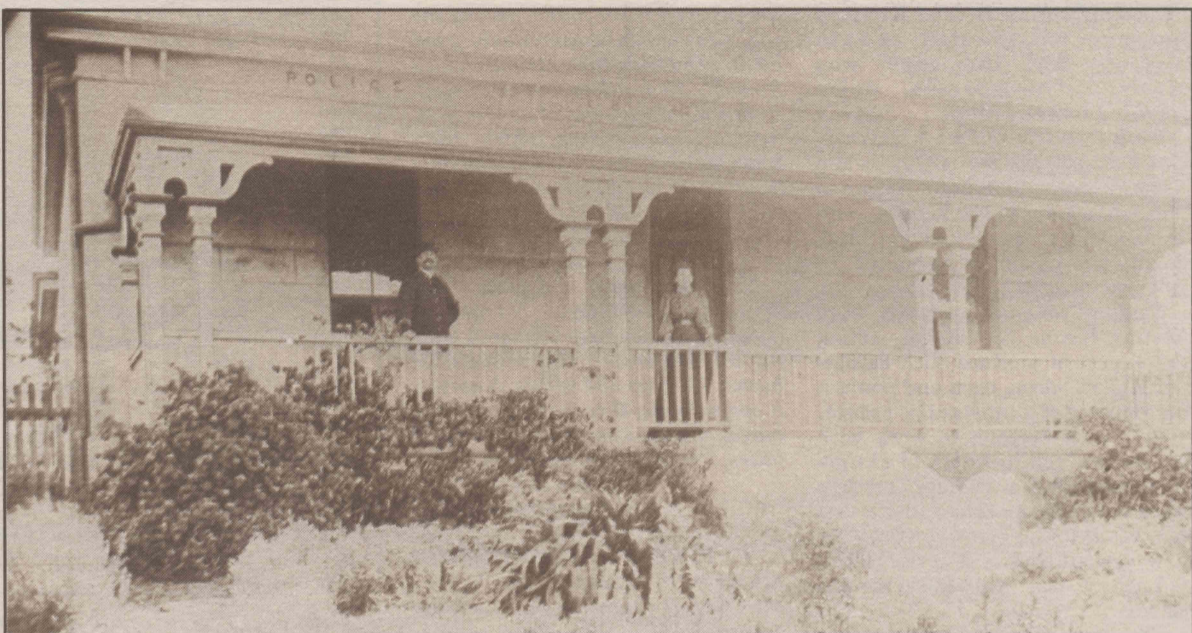
POLICE COURT

"(Before M. Hindmarsh Esq., chairman; M. Gray, and J. Robb, esqs, JPs) - There were four cases of drunkenness:- Margaret Goodhead, lady of Daniel Goodhead, alias Foothead, alias Hercules, was introduced by Constable Chisholm, and charged with having, by the aid of Adams' best bingo 'waked the town from her propriety' by giving tongue to thoughts both loud and loose; ordered to pay 10s. and costs or, in default, twenty-four hours in the cells,"

Kiama Examiner, April 16, 1859

"(Before the Mayor and Mr T S Kendall) - Honora White was summoned by Johanna Ryan for violent assault. Plaintiff stated that on Wednesday, 26th ultimo, her husband and defendant's husband had words about some tools. About two hours afterwards, the defendant's wife came to her house...plaintiff said that she did not want to have any talk with her and that if she did not go away, she would give her the contents of a saucepan, in which was boiling water. Defendant said 'Will you, you wretch!' and ran at her, caught her by the hair of her head, and shoved one side of her face into a camp-oven full of boiling soap suds...But this was not all. Defendant, not satisfied with this, still held plaintiff in her iron grasp, and jobbed her mouth against a large stone, knocking out her two front teeth and breaking a third. Fined £10, or three months imprisonment."

Kiama Examiner, November 5, 1859



• After much campaigning by the residents of Gerringong, the township finally got a police station - it being built in Fern Street in 1882. The former police lock-up, complete with exercise yard, today serves as a private residence.

"MASTERS' AND SERVANTS' ACT - On last Thursday, three cases were tried under this act. In the case *Hindmarsh v Leathes*, the complainant Mr Hindmarsh said his servant girl, Hannah Totten, had left his employment and gone to live with defendant. He had cautioned defendant not to keep her, but he disregarded the caution. Mrs Hindmarsh deposed to having hired H. Totten on 26th of last October, for 12 months at 6s. a week. Totten remained in her service from 31st October to the 2nd January, when she left without consent... H Totten was averse to be bound for a lengthened term, as she was anxious to be free, should an eligible offer of marriage be made her, or should higher wages be offered her. The bench ordered defendant to pay 40s and costs."

The Examiner, February 4, 1860

"KIAMA POLICE COURT: Senior-Constable John Goddard brought W. Humphreys before their worships on a charge of having, on Thursday, Sept 24, been seen in a state of complete nudity, running about the paddock, close by the village of Jamberoo. The prisoner was at the same time 'mad drunk' and uttering the most outrageous and obscene language...The Bench, considering the prisoner's general good character...pronounced the lenient sentence of one week's imprisonment."

Kiama Independent, October 6, 1863

"INQUEST - An inquest was held at the house of Robert Ryan, Omega Retreat, on the 17th instant, on the body of an illegitimate child, the mother of which had vainly tried to conceal its birth. The following is the evidence... Robert Ryan deposed: I am a farmer living on Mr Gray's estate near Gerringong. On last Wednesday morning my wife asked me to come out to the servant girl's bedroom to see what was in the room. When I went in I saw a bundle with an infant in it. I suspected Susan Carter to be in the family way, but never spoke to her about it... Mary Lees deposed: I live near Gerringong, I am in the habit of attending females in their confinement. I was sent for on Wednesday night last by Mr Ryan, to attend a female in his house that had been confined and was very ill. I went to the house. I done my duty to the woman. I saw the baby. It was dead. I think it was born so. The girl's name was Susan Carter. I knew her from a child. I never knew her to be married. The following verdict was returned:- We the jury, have found that Susan Carter has been guilty of concealing the birth of her child."

Kiama Independent, June 21, 1864

THEFT

As already stated, theft was a common offence, no doubt fuelled in many cases by the immense poverty of many early settlers.

Newspaper reports throughout the colony suggest that bushranging was rife, although Kiama appeared largely unaffected.

Most stealing offences in Kiama involved petty theft, such as the taking of a watch or a few coins.

In 1865, however, a year-long spree of butter stealing rocked the community and prompted one local landowner to post a reward for the culprit's capture.

"BUSHRANGING IN NUMBA, SHOALHAVEN - As Mrs Feehan, a respectable woman from Gerringong, was proceeding to the ferry, she was stuck up by three female bushrangers who, with abusive language, demanded her purse, and threatened to push her into the river, unless she delivered the same. And I have been told that her riding skirt was torn in the struggle; for she resisted manfully, but being in a public place and, I suppose, their first attempt at bushranging, and also seeing her unwillingness to part with her money, they made their retreat without using further violence. We hope the next time Mrs Feehan comes this way, she will provide herself with a good pair of revolvers as these daring Amazons are still at large."

Kiama Independent, November 10, 1863

"BUTTER-STEALING - On Friday night last, Mr TS Kendall's dairy was entered at the front window, and a quantity of butter, believed to be about 60 lbs, was stolen. Some articles (a broom and a dish) which had apparently been found useful by the thieves in the first hurry of their proceedings, were left in a paddock between Mr Kendall's and Mr W. Grey's. Mr R Marks' dairy was also entered the same night, and plundered of some 25lbs of butter."

Kiama Independent, November 2, 1865

INQUEST ON THE BODY OF BEN HALL

"The inquest was held at the Police-barracks, Forbes, before W. Farrand, esq. PM. James Henry Davidson, on oath, stated: I am sub-inspector of police, stationed at Forbes. On Saturday morning, April 29, I left the police camp with five men and two black trackers, and started in pursuit of the bushrangers - Hall, Gilbert and Dunn...I got within forty yards of Hall, and fired at him (shot with a double-barrelled gun. Hall, after my firing, jumped a little and looked back, and from his movements I have reason to believe that I hit him....The five police who were stationed beyond him, immediately went towards him and fired... At this time he held himself up by a sapling; and on receiving Hopkiss's fire, he gradually fell backwards. Several other shots were fired afterwards. There were about thirty shots fired in all. Hall then cried out, 'I'm wounded, shoot me dead'. I then went up to the body and noticed that life was extinct."

Kiama Independent, May 11, 1865



• The colonials sitting on rocks in the foreground of Minnamurra Falls shows that the area has long been a place of relaxation and recreation.

LACONIA
Coffee Lounge

For the Freshest
Meals and Takeaway
with Friendly Service

Laconia is proud to support and sponsor this historic project

Terralong Street, KIAMA
TELEPHONE
4232 1489

Agriculture & Horticulture

IT is easy, today, to take Kiama's heritage for granted and to assume that the area was always a prosperous, dairy farming community.

But this was not always the case. Until as late as the 1870s, when Kiama's shipping industry began to flourish and dairy goods were transported to Sydney and beyond, Kiama was devoid of a staple agricultural income.

Regular steamer services were visiting Kiama by 1850, assisting the export of produce such as butter, wheat, bacon, eggs and poultry, but nothing of a substantial nature.

Left with nothing to work with but acres of rolling hills and a largely unpredictable climate, settlers were forced to operate under a system of 'trial and error', testing any new agricultural and horticultural fad which was introduced to the colony.

The pursuit of agriculture was furthered by the establishment of the Kiama Agricultural and Horticultural Society in 1848, the first Kiama Show being held in 1849 in a building located in Central (Hindmarsh) Park.

The Show continued each year at various locations throughout the town until 1858, when it was abandoned due to insufficient funds for prize money. Renewed vigour saw the Society reactivated in 1867, however.

"THE COAL QUESTION: We understand that a public meeting will be called at an early day, having for its object the ventilation of the question lately raised as to the existence of coal in paying quantities in the neighbourhood of Saddleback."

The Examiner,
November 25, 1862

"PLEURO-PNEUMONIA
Pursuant to advertisement in our columns last week, a public meeting came off at Mr Adam's Steam Packet Hotel, for the purpose of discussing the best means to be pursued relative to the spread of the above-named disease. Mr Robert Miller in the chair... Mr Humphrey Dunster, of Shellharbour, addressed the meeting at considerable length...giving a detail of his own experience in regard to pleuro-pneumonia... On turning to the practice of inoculation, he had discovered that it was all but a perfect safeguard for his herd."

Kiama Independent,
August 11, 1863

"CULTIVATION OF CABBAGE -
We are informed that Mr Tobin of

the Crooked River made, during the past season, an uncommonly good hit in the above line. He purchased from Mr Redford on ounce of seed, from which he obtained no less than two thousand plants which, from time to time, when in marketable condition, he disposed of for an agreeable sum of £13."

Kiama Independent,
September 22, 1863

"Exports from Kiama per Illawarra Steam Navigation Company's steamers for week ending 9th November, 1867:- 303 kegs butter, 110 pigs 334 calves, 5 horses, 5 coops fowls, 9 cases eggs, 2 bags bacon, 4 bags wool, 1 cask tallow, 8 hides, 7 bales skins, sundries."

Kiama Independent,
November 14, 1867

"BUTTER EXPORTATION MEETING - A meeting was held in the Council Chamber, on Thursday evening last, for the purpose of making arrangements for the shipment of butter to England - ER Evans Esq, in the chair. It was decided the company should be styled 'The Shellharbour Export Butter Company'. A committee was appointed and Alderman Gray appointed manager of the company."

Kiama Independent,
November 18, 1869

Wheat

By the time of Kiama's municipal declaration in 1859, wheat was firmly established as an agricultural staple in the area. A flour and timber mill, known as Woodstock, was built at Jamberoo in 1838 and served the needs of the area, processing large quantities of wheat.

When the mill became unreliable, John Sharpe, a prominent Kiama businessman, commissioned the construction of two flour mills - the Bush Bank Steam Flour Mill at the foot of Mount Pleasant in 1856, and in 1864, a second, three-storey mill in Terralong Street (on the east side of Woolworths) and which doubled as a saw mill.

Kiama's climate ultimately proved too wet to guarantee the long-term future of the wheat crop and references to rust on the plants were documented in early newspapers almost from the start.

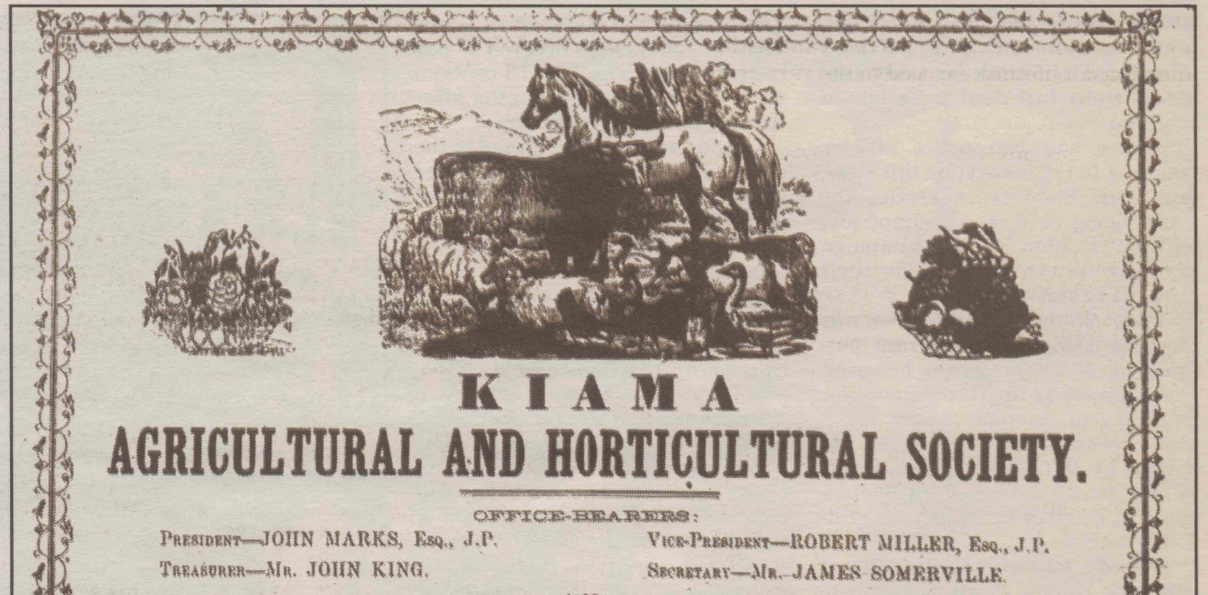
By the late 1860s, enthusiasm had waned to the point where it was suggested that the wheat only be planted intermittently.

In December 1865, Mr Sharpe announced this decision to sell up, citing the failure of wheat in the district and subsequent financial losses for his decision to move to the Richmond River area to start afresh.

"GERRINGONG - The gale which passed over the district last week proved rather violent and if attended with much evil to the potatoes and the crops, has also been productive of much good, inasmuch as it has blown all the rust off the wheat."

Kiama Independent,
December 15, 1864

"JAMBEROO - 'The cultivation of the ordinary cereals as wheat, barley and oats, was not ventured on to a very great extent hereabouts this year, and indeed, seldom is, the quantity of land really suitable for cultivation being



• A Kiama Agricultural & Horticultural Society show schedule produced in 1867 to celebrate the reformation of the Society.

small, as in other parts of the district. It is indeed almost surprising that anybody should have run the risk of sowing wheat in particular, immediately after a season in which the crops had been so totally destroyed, as they were last year, by the rust."

Kiama Independent,
December 29, 1864

"THE WEATHER AND THE CROPS - ...There seems to be an impression that the rust is disappearing or likely to disappear; but it will no doubt be wise to intermit the cultivation of wheat for a season and ascertain if there is good ground for this belief. Too much cost and labour have already been wasted on a branch of farming which, even when crops are fair, is but moderately remunerative."

Kiama Independent,
August 10, 1865

"OUR MILL - Although we deeply regret the departure of Mr John Sharpe from our district, we learn with satisfaction that the fine business premises he laid out and constructed with so much skill, and at so much expense, have passed by purchase into the hands of our enterprising Mr G Bullen."

Kiama Independent,
December 21, 1865

Sugarcane

One of the area's most ambitious agricultural pursuits was the production of sugarcane. Regions throughout the colony were cultivating cane and their financial success had encouraged other enterprising communities, including Kiama, to follow suit.

Prominent citizens, John Colley and James Robb (of Riversdale), led the charge - Mr Colley investing in 700 plants of the Yellow Tahitian variety for his property at Longbrush (Jerrara).

The potential of such a crop surviving Kiama's climate was a source of great conjecture, however.

A correspondent to the Kiama Independent, known only as "Etylong", advised against such an endeavour, arguing that the climate could not sustain the growth of sugarcane to a profitable conclusion and that winter frosts would prove ultimately devastating.

His opinion was stacked up against some weighty, influential opposition, however.

Thomas Scott, Australia's leading authority on sugarcane and the man responsible for introducing the

sugarcane to the nation together with sweet potatoes, bananas and cotton, argued passionately against Etylong's words of foreboding. Scott, from his home in Brisbane Waters, cited the success of the crop in northern New South Wales and, further afield, New Orleans in America where he said the climate was often colder than in Kiama (a submission discounted by Etylong).

As Kiama was experiencing only moderate success with its wheat, Mr Scott arrived at just the right time with local farmers keen to accept his well-meaning promises.

To the Editor of the Kiama Independent

"THE SUGAR-CANE: SIR - Etylong says that the climate at Kiama is too frigid for the profitable growth of the sugar-cane. Now, it has been grown here at several places, and at Port Macquarie... (I state my experience upon known facts of an industry which may advance the material interests of Kiama. Thomas Scott..."

Kiama Independent, October 27, 1864

"SIR:- Mr Scott considers, or professes to consider, that my first letter was written from personal ill-feeling. I have no ill-feeling against Mr Scott, but from personal knowledge of that gentleman and his projects, and an extensive knowledge of the earth, climate, surface and productions, I consider it my duty to warn the Kiama public against the waste of valuable time, money, and still more valuable energy, in opposition to all known laws of climate. Etylong..."

Kiama Independent,
November 3, 1864.

"SIR:- ...In the present impoverished state of the district, owing to the low price of its staple produce, all will admit the necessity of trying some other production, and when the people are actually trying an experiment, Etylong turns obstructionist and throws cold water on the movement; I however, hope my one pound subscription will be like bread cast on the waters and that I shall eventually see my little freehold at least half covered with sugar cane... A Small Farmer."

Kiama Independent,
November 3, 1864.

"CULTIVATION OF THE SUGAR - On Tuesday last, one of those enterprising gentlemen who are endeavouring to introduce the practice of sugar-growing as a permanent industry in the Illawarra, viz Mr John Colley, brought into town a specimen of the young cane which is now growing on his farm... Considering how recently the cane was planted, the result would

appear to be full of promise for the ultimate success of the attempt to grow sugar-cane in this district."

Kiama Independent,
March 16, 1865

"THE SUGAR-CANE - Those of our readers who feel interested in the agricultural improvements of the district will be glad to hear that the point on which the principle doubt rested as to the prospects of sugar growing here has been, in a great measure, settled. The frosts and winds which have occurred during the early part of the present winter have not materially injured any of the canes, though both have been of unusual severity... A wise man will not, however, regard the fortune of the district as already made, or forget that other and unforeseen difficulties may possibly arise before the first sugar is produced in Kiama for the market."

Kiama Independent,
June 22, 1865

"SUGAR-CRUSHING - In answer to the invitation of Mr J Robb, a number of gentlemen assembled at his residence, Riversdale, to witness the first attempt at sugar-cane crushing in the district, under the able superintendence of the venerable introducer of cane into the colony, Mr Thomas Scott, of Brisbane Waters... The crushing mill, with three large rollers, 14 inches long and 12 inches in diameter, belonging to Mr John Colley, had been removed to Riversdale and attached to Mr Robb's churning apparatus (an American machine driven by two horses), and although only capable of crushing one cane at a time, and going at a speed of far too great for the purpose, it was really astonishing to see the quantity of juice from one cane... From the weight of canes per acre (dressed for crushing), nearly 36 tons, and density of the juice, marking nearly 11 Beaume's saccharometer, Mr Scott anticipated the most favourable results."

Kiama Independent,
October 18, 1866

"THE AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION - ...The recent experiments in the cultivation of sugar cane and the importance of 'this most profitable and agricultural industries', give special interest to the exhibition of samples of the manufactured article. Specimens were forwarded on this occasion by Messrs James Robb sen, and John Colley... Another of the possible industries of the district was exemplified by Mr James Harvison, who exhibited some fine specimens of raw silk, which excited some remarks of amusing simplicity from some of the spectators unacquainted with its character."

Kiama Independent,
March 7, 1867

KIAMA SPORTS & LEISURE WEAR

Kiama Sports and Leisure Wear carries a full range of men's, women's and children's Sports and Leisure Wear.



Larry & Gail Beringer
Sports and Leisure Wear
Established January 2000

"Kiama's sports and leisure wear store for the next century"

Gift vouchers are available and Laybys are welcome.
Shop locally and save!

KIAMA SPORTS & LEISURE WEAR
12 MANNING ST, KIAMA (OPPOSITE THE POST OFFICE)
PH: 4233 2330 • FAX: 4233 2340

Births, Deaths & Accidents

THE lives of our early settlers were inarguably tough. If they (and their mothers) were fortunate enough to survive childbirth, they faced a lifetime exposed to the very real threat of disease and other perils.

Disease was common and newspapers featured regular updates on the spread epidemics such as diphtheria, scarlet fever, dysentery and measles.

The neighbourhoods of Jerrara and Fountaindale were affected by measles in 1867, leaving "six members of Mr Spink's family prostrate; also several in the family of Mr Fredericks". Within the month, the wife of Thomas Newing, of Longbrush, had succumbed to the disease.

Spring brought not only warmer weather, but snakes in their hundreds, if reports to the newspapers are to be believed. This posed an additional danger for settlers making their way through the paddocks, and even those standing in their own kitchens. Death by snake bite was another, all too prevalent result.

One of the most common causes of death, however, was via the main mode of transport - the horse. In the course of a day, a person was in danger of being either thrown from a horse, trampled by a horse or crushed by a horse and buggy which had flipped over on the uneven roads.

One young child suffered for three painful months in 1861 after a dray wheel ran over her stomach, leaving her "intestines and other internal organs so seriously injured as to be incapable of performing their proper functions". Amazingly, she recovered from the accident.

In 1860, Thomas Clancy, 24, of Jamberoo, died after a horse fell on top of him.

On the homefront, perils abounded with farm and household machinery while unsafe work practices saw many a worker lose a finger or complete hand in the course of his daily rounds.

In 1866, the youngest daughter of community leader, Joseph King, had three fingers severed by a brush hook in a backyard accident.

In 1869, eight-year-old Kiama lad, William Smith, had his face severely burned after he ignited a flask of gunpowder which had been left lying about the neighbourhood.

In all cases of disease and injury, the absence of telephones and ambulance meant that the resident doctor of the district had to be sent for by horse.

And if, by some terrible chance, the doctor was engaged on the opposite side of the municipality, the victim was left to suffer, sometimes dying a painful death.

"SERIOUS ACCIDENT: On Sunday last, as a farmer named Walter Curry was riding in from Jamberoo to Kiama, he met with a very serious accident. It appears from the account we have heard, that Mrs Curry and another person, who were riding with Mr Curry, happened at the Kiama side of Spring Hill, to be a little ahead of him; and as they were crossing the creek, he rushed hastily after them, intending, as a piece of fun, to give them a splashing, when, from the sudden impetus, the girth of the saddle broke, and Mr Curry, by a plunge of the horse, was thrown violently to the ground, falling on the back of his head, and tearing off the scalp from the neck forward to nearly the eyes... We were told that nearly one ounce of gravel was removed from the skin and head. On Monday morning, the patient looked pretty well, but we heard that he passed a pretty bad night and is not so well this morning".

The Examiner, April 4, 1860

"BIRTH: On Tuesday last, the wife of a labouring man named Flitcroft, residing at the Macquarie River, gave birth to three children (two girls, one boy). This although not an unheard of proceeding, is fortunately rather an unusual one, and as much worth the notice of other events we chronicle. We know a case of a similar blessing (?) in which the trio, in that instance girls, all survived and grew up to be smart, young lasses. But the whole of the chil-

dren born to Mrs Flitcroft on Tuesday, died within three days. The mother we believe is doing pretty well."

The Examiner, August 6, 1861

"The death of Mrs John Moffitt on Sunday morning last, after giving birth to a healthy female child, has chilled the spirits of the residents...Her husband is left with the heavy charge of four female children, the eldest of whom is at present suffering from a broken arm."

Kiama Independent, January 4, 1866

"An accident occurred on Mr Sharpe's Steam Mills on Tuesday last, to the eldest son of Mr Reid, store-keeper. He was playing near some machinery which was in motion when his right hand was caught and the forefinger completely torn away."

Kiama Independent, January 18, 1866

"SCALDED TO DEATH - A most distressing case of accidental scalding, with fatal results, occurred to the infant daughter of Mr and Mrs Frank Harris, at Jamberoo, on Tuesday last. Our informant says that Mrs Harris was washing and the child, about 18 months old, walking and playing about the room. She had just removed some clothes from the boiler which stood on the floor, and gone outside for a moment, when hearing a splash and scream, she ran back to find her child in the boiling suds. Every effort was made to relieve its sufferings; it lingered in great agony for six hours, and then died. Mothers with small children cannot be too careful on washing days."

Kiama Independent, May 2, 1867

"Jane Irving, aged 12 years, daughter of Mr James Irving of Spring Hill, was playing in a paddock adjoining her father's house, when she was bitten by a large snake, and received a fatal wound. She returned to her mother immediately, and a ligature placed above the wound. After an interval of some time, the wound was scarified and sucked, the Ipecacuanha poultice applied, and brandy given...death took place about 30 hours after the infliction of the wound. This incident should be a sad lesson to anyone who may be called upon to witness a snake-bite."

Immediate removal of the bitten part is the only hope of the patient's safety. This should be done at once, boldly and freely, by anyone on the spot, and a common razor is as good an instrument as is likely to be procured."

Kiama Independent, January 12, 1865

Cemeteries

Having 'passed over', a new dilemma awaited the relatives of the deceased, that being a place for burial. Until the mid-1860s, an extraordinary anomaly existed in that there were no public places to bury the dead - cemeteries not having been allowed for in the local town plans. Laws also prohibited burials within the precincts of a town.

Larger property owners were at an advantage, but the poor were forced to ask their wealthy neighbours for a burial plot, or travel beyond the town limits of Gerringong and Jamberoo to bury their dead.

This set in place a movement to have land set aside for public cemeteries, the most prominent being for a cemetery at Porter's Garden (Bombo Cemetery).

"GENERAL CEMETERY: On Wednesday afternoon, a meeting was held in the Free Church, Kiama, at 4 o'clock, to petition the Government to provide a general cemetery for the district...the object of the meeting had been before the public now for five years, but nothing satisfactory had been done in it...People did not know where to bury, and had to take long journeys on the one side to Jamberoo, and on the other to Gerringong, to obtain interment for their deceased friends. This was hard upon the rich, and bore more heavily on the poor man...Mr Joseph King came forward and requested the chairman to read a letter which he handed to him. This was done by Mr Poulton. The letter was from the Department of Lands, dated November 1857, and stated in reply to a petition by Mr King and others on the subject of granting a site for a cemetery at Porter's Garden, that the Government had withdrawn the proposed grant..."

The Examiner, October 20, 1860

"GERRINGONG - The new cemetery is now open for the reception of the remains of our dear departed ones. It will be a great public convenience, as there were some who were obliged to beg of others a place to bury their dead. Our respected and much lamented friend and neighbour, Mr (Evan) Campbell, was the first laid within its precincts."

Kiama Independent, September 22, 1864

Dental Surgery

"SURGICAL - We hear with pleasure that Dr Nolan has procured Richardson's spray producer, by which instrument he is able to extract teeth, and perform all the minor operations in surgery, without causing pain to the patient, doing away with the more dangerous procedure of administering chloroform. We admire our local medical men keeping pace with the advancement of medical science."

Kiama Independent, January 24, 1867

IT'S YOUR HOME Not Just Another Property



After 38 years of living and breathing this area, I understand what matters. Are you thinking of selling or need genuine real estate advice? Please call me today. **Jeff Alexander**



The Professionals

38 Terralong St, Kiama - 4232 1300

OBITUARIES

"MISS HINDMARSH: The funeral of this lamented lady took place on Wednesday last...the procession moved from her late residence, Rose Bank, a little before ten o'clock. The shops in the streets through which the procession passed were shut as a mark of respect...she was laid beside two of her brother's family, in the private burying ground of Mr Michael Hindmarsh's property of Alne Bank, Gerringong. Miss Hindmarsh had for some years been the head of a large and flourishing boarding school for young ladies. Trained in the art of tuition, and having a real pleasure in imparting knowledge and Christian principle in the youthful mind, she lived for many years in some of the first families of Scotland..."

The Examiner, April 24, 1860

"TRIBUTE TO MRS ROBERT MARKS: Death is everywhere! Oh how startling was the question asked by an acquaintance as we passed on the road: "Do you know that Mrs Marks is dead?" Oh, how seriously, solemnly, mournfully, did this sad sound peel through my soul when I understood that a living friend had passed away..."

The Examiner, August 1, 1860

"DEATH - One of the most respected of the old residents in the southern portion of our district has recently departed forever from the joys and sorrows of his adopted home. On the 12th instant, Mr Evan Campbell died at his residence at Gerringong after a painful illness of about three months. The deceased was 62 years of age, and had been living in Gerringong some 26 years..."

Kiama Independent, September 22, 1864

"THE LATE ROBERT MILLER - On Tuesday last a large number of the residents of the district followed to the grave the remains of one of the oldest inhabitants of Gerringong. We allude to the late Mr Robert Miller who, after a residence of 35 years in the colony, almost all of it being spent in this district, passed quietly to his eternal rest at the age of nearly 74 years... Mr Miller was born in Erskine Parish, Renfrewshire Scotland, and arrived in this colony in 1834. His widow and a family of five sons and four daughters survive. In addition to these, Mr Miller had lived to see grandchildren to the number of 49... Mr Miller did not, himself, take an active part in public affairs, but he was a liberal patron of every movement calculated."

Kiama Independent, June 24, 1869



SUMMER SALE

UP TO **50%** OFF*

Mens, Ladies, Boys, Accessories, Wetsuits

*selected styles only, conditions apply

OPEN 7 DAYS - 5 HUGE LOCATIONS

Mega Store
Warilla Grove
Warilla
42978144

Menswear
& Bodyboards
1 George St
Warilla
42969229

Ladies &
Boys Surfwear
14 Beverley Ave
Warilla
42954344

Surfboards
12 Beverley Ave
Warilla
42977016

Megastore
136 Terralong St
Kiama
42331189

e-mail beachstreet@hotmail.net.au

Larrikinism, wildlife

Municipal Update

"THE ROADS - We are glad to see that the little amount voted by Parliament for repairs of our roads has already been the means of affecting some considerable amount of improvement. This has been accomplished chiefly on the Jamberoo side of this town... It is, indeed, a pity that so much good work should be expended on the very perishable material of which our roads are at present formed."

Kiama Independent, August 4, 1864

"GERRINGONG harbour improvement - Our worthy member has been exerting himself on our behalf, and by his powerful influence on governmental circles, has succeeded, it is said, in obtaining a promise that there shall be placed on the estimates a sum of money sufficient to form the approaches to and erect a jetty in the harbour, for the reception and shipping of goods and produce."

Kiama Independent, September 22, 1864

"JAMBEROO - The problem which has for a long time puzzled those concerned, viz, which is the most practicable route to the top of the mountain, has, I understand, received something like a satisfactory solution within the last few days. Messrs DL Dymock, John Tate,

James Walker, and others, while engaged in exploring for the purpose, discovered a track which a very small expense would make practicable for wheeled carriages, and of which no part is steeper than the ascent of Spring Hill... I believe there is some memorial to the Municipal Council on foot, requesting their assistance in some way to open up the track in question."

Kiama Independent, March 5, 1868

"THE ESTIMATES - The following amounts for local improvements were placed on the estimates by the Martin-Parkes ministry, and have been voted by Parliament:- For the bridge over the Minnamurra at the ferry £600; for a jetty at Gerringong Boat Harbour £500."

Kiama Independent, April 29, 1869

Volunteer Rifle Corps

The Kiama Volunteer Rifle Corps was formed in 1868 after Bismarck and the Prussians seized the German states, threatening the peace of Europe (and ultimately bringing about the Franco-Prussian War in 1870).

The corps engaged in regular activities in preparation for action, including rifle matches, drills and camps away. Corps were formed at Jamberoo and Gerringong soon after.

"VOLUNTEER MEETING - A meeting of volunteers and others took place at the Court-house on Friday evening last. Recruits to the number of 56 were sworn in, and a committee of 12 appointed to conduct the business of the Corps. An updress uniform was decided upon, consisting of a blue serge tunic with scarlet facings, and a military cap with scarlet band."

Kiama Independent, August 13, 1868

"VOLUNTEER AFFAIRS - Parades, with sham fighting, at which blank cartridge was burnt, took place on the evenings of Friday and Monday

last, the scene of operations being, on Friday, the reserve on Chapman's Point, and on Monday at the Blowhole Point. The number of members in attendance on each occasion exceeded 50."

Kiama Independent, July 1, 1869

Larrikinism

"TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE: On Thursday last a report was current about the town that gold had been discovered at Pike's Hill in the cutting now being made there, and a little excitement was occasioned thereby. People, however, did not go out of their wits, but waited discreetly for further information before finally making up their minds to go mad about it, and when the latest intelligence was received, their discretion became justified as the whole affair turned out to be a hoax. The men working at the cutting had for some days entertained a general notion that the rock contained gold and kept an anxious look out for signs of hidden treasure. One of their number, who has in his possession a small nugget, bethought him of practising on their anxiety; and as a good joke threw this nugget in amongst the debris over which the rest were intently prying... The joke, however, soon got wind and we have now quite recovered from the effects of the news and are going about our several occupations, strengthened in the conviction that gold is not to be got in Kiama under the ground, although a fair share of it is to be collected by industry and perseverance in the cultivation of the surface."

The Examiner, June 23, 1860

"JAMBEROO: A habit of nocturnal pillage has lately become prevalent about the 'settlement', some of our neighbours having been, under cover of darkness, plundered of a quantity of linen, which had been allowed to remain, after nightfall, on the clothesline and fences." The Examiner, September 22, 1860

The Wildlife

Kiama had an array of wildlife, but none more perilous than snakes. It appeared that, during the warmer weather, from spring onwards, snakes enjoyed a long reign of terror, killing many, and bringing others within inches of a painful, lingering death. And they were not only to be

found in the paddocks as the farmers cleared the land for farming, settling and roads, they were also encountered in more populated areas, having slithered from nearby paddocks.

As was the usual custom of the day, most wildlife deemed bothersome was killed forthwith, and not always in a merciful fashion.

"JAMBEROO: A remarkable animal has been discovered this week by a man of Mr DL Waugh's, a perfect *lusus naturae* of the reptile species. It is about two feet in length and, strange to say, is only the thickness of an ordinary knitting needle from the head to the tail, with a head like a snake. It was found basking in the sun, and when touched moved away with all the motion of a snake. It evidently belongs to the snake kind, for its entire motions exactly correspond with those of the snake. It has, I believe, been sent to the Sydney Museum, in a bottle of spirits."

The Examiner, May 2, 1860

"JAMBEROO: As the warm weather approaches, one naturally expects to hear something of the reptile population of the country; and this spring we are not disappointed - for although we have scarcely yet had the odour of warm weather in our nostrils, the snakes appear, if report may be credited, to have been making as strong a muster as if they intended the entire conquest of the colony... The particular report to which I allude is one which probably has been repeated in Kiama as well as here. The purport of it, whether true or false, is that the men occupied in forming the road over the hill at Meadow Bank, discovered the other day an extraordinary number of those amiable creatures - some say three hundred, chiefly youngsters, all lying perdu, among and under the stones which they (the men) found it necessary to shift during their work; and all within a few yards along the line. Of these, I am assured that nearly 200 were killed on the spot, the rest made the best of their way out of present danger to form, no doubt, a focus of rebellion and insurrection elsewhere." The Examiner, September 1, 1860

"VERY LIKE A WHALE INDEED: We have just been told that there is a 'real live' whale to be seen in the little bay near Mr East's, where he has been seen disporting himself since Sunday morning to the great astonishment of the neighbourhood. It is said to be a sperm whale, about 40 feet long... Our retired mariners are all excited and are laying their heads together to

compass his destruction. His Whaleship would certainly be worth bagging these hard times."

The Examiner, July 2, 1861

"FISH OH! Lovers of this delicacy have lately had an opportunity which seldom occurs here of gratifying their piscatory inclinations to almost any extent. Owing, we presume, to the unusually protracted drought, the water of the Lagoon had become so impure that the fish crowded down to the lower end, in the vain expectation of finding egress to the sea... Implements of the field and chase, of husbandry and the dairy, saplings from the neighbouring bush &c, were pressed into the service and soon the sands of the Lagoon were dotted with piles of the spoil. The 'take' was so large that quantities were left to rot upon the beach; and we venture to assert that if anyone in Kiama dined fishless for the last two Fridays, it was his own fault."

The Examiner, November 25, 1862

"A GOOD HAUL - Mr Wm Black informs us that on Saturday morning he bagged an extraordinary number of cockatoos by means of a net which he had adjusted over his corn straddle. Watching his opportunity when the white feathered gentry sat thickest on the yellow grain, he drew his net and secured no less than 112 of the depredators. Good sport this!"

Kiama Independent, September 22, 1863

"MONSTER HAWK - In the vicinity of the Stockyard Mountain, Jamberoo, the eagle hawks, whose eyrie is in the neighbouring crags, have this season especially been a great nuisance to the settlers, committing sad havoc amongst the poultry. One settler named Faulks, having suffered as he thought a little more than his share, and not being able to get within gunshot, adopted a somewhat novel mode of catching these 'kings of the feathered tribe'. For this purpose he baited a large, strong rat trap with calf's flesh, and left it well secured on a spot frequented by the hawks. He had not long to wait before snap went the trap, catching in its iron grasp the lord of the lot, which being despatched, was found to measure across the wings from tip to tip, seven feet four inches. A similar process might be adopted with advantage in other localities."

Kiama Independent, February 21, 1867

SCARRATT & ASSOCIATES

Surveyors & Land Consultants

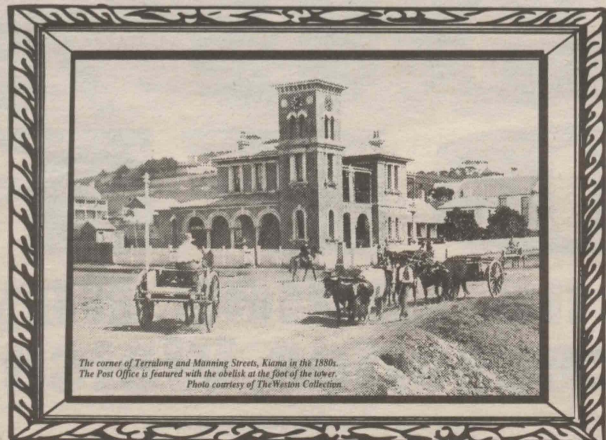


With extensive experience in the Kiama, Jamberoo and Gerringong areas we offer a personalised, consulting, surveying service covering all aspects of property development.

Ph: 4233 1448 Fax: 4233 1215
5/125 Terralong St, Kiama

52809

HISTORICAL PRINTS OF LOCAL KIAMA AREAS AND LANDMARKS



The corner of Terralong and Manning Streets, Kiama in 1860. The Post Office is featured with the clock at the foot of the tower. Photo courtesy of The Weston Collection.

Gerringong, Jamberoo & Kiama Locations from \$15 Unframed.

KIAMA PICTURE COMPANY OPEN 7 DAYS
106 Terralong Street 4233 1300

52809

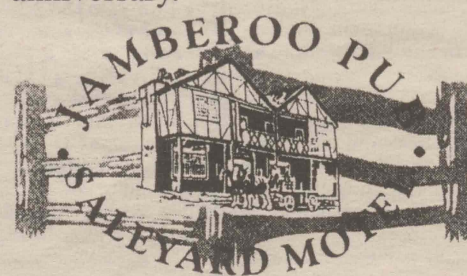
Jamberoo Pub & Saleyard Motel

Established 1857

The Warren Family of the Jamberoo Pub continue their proud tradition into the Year 2000.

Proud to be winners of this year's Southern Illawarra and Tourism Business Award in the tourism and hospitality category, and also the award for best Customer Service.

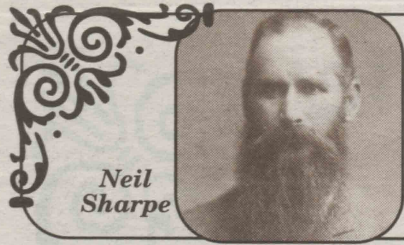
Jamberoo Pub has played a significant role in this area's past and will continue to do so into the new century as Jamberoo celebrates its 175th anniversary.



12 Allowrie Street, Jamberoo

PHONE 4236 0270

51159



Neil Sharpe

The Sharpes



Agnes Sharpe

THE name Sharpe is synonymous with the Gerringong district and the local family enjoys a proud history whose direct beginnings in the area date back to 1850.

Their local chapter began with Neil Sharpe who arrived in Australia from Ballymoney, Ireland, with his wife Agnes, and two children John 5, and Margaret 12 months. He was aged 35 years.

Neil followed his brother, John, to the area. His first Australian-born child, James, was born on the 'Bonaira' Estate near Bush Bank in 1853.

Neil took up a farm at Gerringong, at the southern end of Werri Beach, where he bred horses for sale.

Given the public's reliance on 'horse power' for travel, it proved a profitable venture and Neil regularly took a mob of horses to Sydney to sell.

It was during one of these excursions to Sydney, in 1874, that he was killed, thrown from his horse in a Sydney street. He was aged 59 years.

In his wake, Agnes stayed on the farm and managed 40 acres with cattle and horses with her five children - including three boys - James, John and David.

Of the boys, James was the only child to marry. He married Mary Jane Nelson, only daughter of Andrew Nelson, on June 28, 1882.

Together they had 10 children - 6 boys and four girls, thus giving rise the dynasty of Sharpes who live in Gerringong today.

James Sharpe was a quiet man, always calm, unruffled and punctual. He would often sit twiddling his thumbs while waiting for dinner or at the railway station, waiting for a train.

His customary patience saw him start out as a tenant farmer at Toolijooa on the Berry Estate and finish as one of the largest landowners of the area, having slowly acquired the properties around him over time.

He built 'Aorang' in 1900, and this became the family home.

In the history of the area, few residents stood out for their tireless commitment to civic service like James Sharpe.

James served on Gerringong Council for a tremendous 39 years from 1891 to 1930 and served as Mayor in 1929. His name is one of four engraved on the foundation stones of Gerringong RSL. When the Kiama Hospital opened in 1929 - he laid the Gerringong stone as its mayor.

He was on the Board of Directors of the Gerringong Co-operative Dairy Society (1908 to 1930) and was a

Board member and Chairman of Dairy Farmers in Sydney for 30 years.

He served on the Pastures Protection Board, travelling to Moss Vale for meetings by horse and buggy.

The Gerringong Rifle Club presented him with an Illuminated Address. He was Vice-president of the Milking Shorthorn Society.

In his capacity as a farmer, James took his cattle to Sydney Show for many years, walking six to eight head of cattle to Gerringong Railway Station, travelling to Alexandria and then walking through the city streets to the Sydney Showground.

Progressive in his outlook, James owned the first steam-driven boiler and separator in the area.

It represented a labour-saving device, especially for the women of the family whose daily job it was to set the milk out in big open trays and skim the cream by hand.

James' second daughter, Pansy (Ken Miller's mother), had the additional task of making up six cups of flour for scones for the workmen's morning tea each morning.

Mary Jane was a hard task-master, believing that all work should be done before lunch. And woe betide anyone found reading a book before that time! She was also great believer in 'senna tea' and everyone was forced to line up for their dose on a Saturday morning, whether they needed it or not.

Toolijooa was a thriving place at the time with more than 100 children attending the local school. Further along the flat, towards the railway line, was a racecourse, followed by the Butter Factory and railway station.

Family picnics at Seven Mile Beach were a popular pastime. Mary Jane, was a humorous sight, dressed in her two-piece costume of black Italian cloth, large 'Bombay Bloomers' and a voluminous top, her feet bare, sitting in a chair in the surf, slowly sinking into the sand with each wave.

When it looked as if she would disappear, she'd call for one and all to help her out (she was a lady of fairly large proportions) and relocate her to firmer ground.

James Sharpe continued in his capacity as a community leader until the day he died in 1930 and his legacy continues today with the ongoing progress of Gerringong.

Of James and Mary Jane's 10 children, only seventh-born, Wallace or "Wally", did not marry. He worked in Bill Nelson's shop at Gerringong before joining the 6th Australian Light Horse. He was killed in action at Palestine in 1918, aged 27 years.

James' brothers David and John

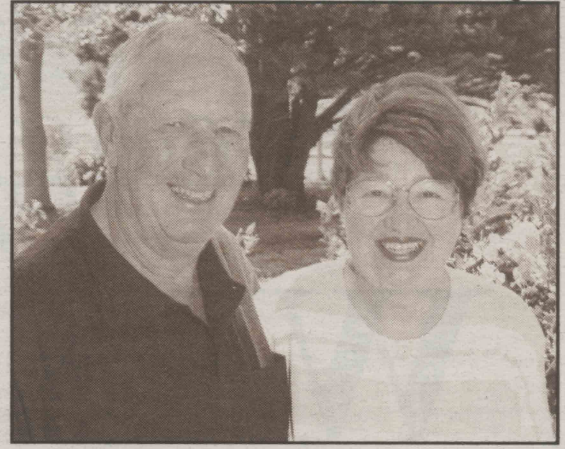
both predeceased him. David went to the gold diggings at Kalgoorlie, WA, where he died at age 45 in 1902. John, a carpenter who lived at Gerringong, died in 1903.

Their sister, Margaret, was married to Alexander Campbell MLA, and from them descended Gerringong's Campbell clan.

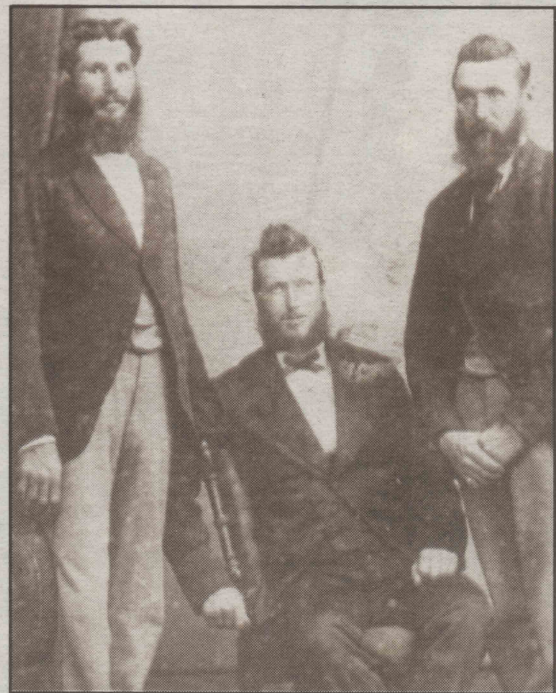
The descendants of James and Mary-Jane Sharpe include 27 grandchildren who went on to marry into many other well-known local families. Many of these grandchildren, like their parents, followed in James Sharpe's footsteps in the way of service to the community.

*** ** *

This article was compiled with the assistance of Colin Sharpe (grandson of James Sharpe) and wife, Margaret, of Gerringong (pictured right).



• The family which started a dynasty - James and Mary Jane Sharpe are pictured (seated, centre) with their children (back, from left) Les, Grace, Wal, Marj, Bill, (centre) May, Mum and Dad, Pansy, and (front) Ron, Ossy and Stan. Many families of the Gerringong and Kiama districts have direct links with this family including the Campbells, Dunsters and Millers.



• The sons of Neil and Agnes Sharpe are from left James, John and David.

Terralong Gallery



The Studio of Artist GARY LAIRD

Featuring traditional and contemporary works by a number of artists complemented by select, quality works in wood, pottery and glass.

Custom Picture Framing Professional Service & Advice

Shop 1/134 Terralong St, Kiama
Open 7 Days (½ day Sat)
PHONE 4232 3166

Pioneer John Sharpe

ONE of Kiama's most enterprising pioneer businessmen was John Sharpe.

John, the brother of Neil Sharpe (see feature above), emigrated to Australia from County Antrim, Ireland, in 1839, with his wife, Margaret, and son, John.

While listed as a blacksmith on his shipping records, John proved a multi-talented man, skilled in the areas of commerce and engineering.

In 1856, to capitalise on the local wheat industry, he built the Bush Bank Steam Mill, just south of Kiama and beside the old road which linked Kiama to Gerringong.

Turning his attention to civic affairs, John campaigned for a seat on the first Kiama Council in 1859 - a place he won convincingly and which saw him poll the second highest number of votes behind James Colley, Kiama's first mayor.

John served on council until 1861 when he turned his attention to the construction of a second flour mill, this time one more accessible to the wheat farmers of Jamberoo.

In 1864, he commissioned the con-

struction of a three-storey high mill in Terralong Street (on the eastern side of Woolworths). The mill, which was lauded for its impressive architecture, also served as a sawmill.

John served another term on council in 1865-66, and was elected Mayor in 1866. But while his civic life was prosperous, increasing apathy in the wheat industry, brought on by rust, saw his business ventures fail.

Mid-council term, John announced his decision to sell both his mills and relocate his wife and family of eight children to Ballina. The mills were sold at a disappointing loss - costing £4000 to build, but fetching £1400 at sale. His transition to the Richmond River area was a tremendous success and the *Kiama Independent* featured many updates on his progress, including his acquisition of 500 acres and the successful establishment of a sugar mill - and a flour mill.

John Sharpe died in 1898, aged 85 years. His passing was mourned by residents of two highly prosperous districts of New South Wales who owed much of their progress to his courage and foresight.



KIAMA LEAGUES CLUB

Terralong Street, Kiama 4232 1777

Proud to be part of Kiama's history

Knights Bistro – Open Daily Lunch & Dinner
Children Welcome – Blackboard Menu
Coach Tours • Travel Club • Entertainment

TAB



SKY CHANNEL



Club KINC



ATM

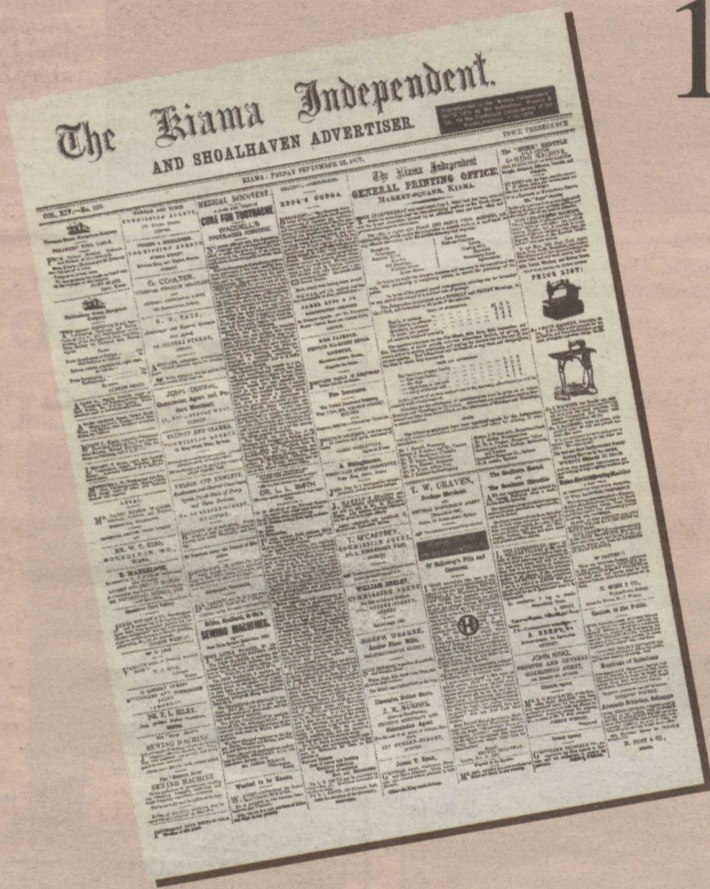
INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS



This supplement proudly brought to you by the

WESTON FAMILY

Publishers of the
Kiama Independent since
1863



Kiama Independent

Your local news and sport
for the past 137 years

