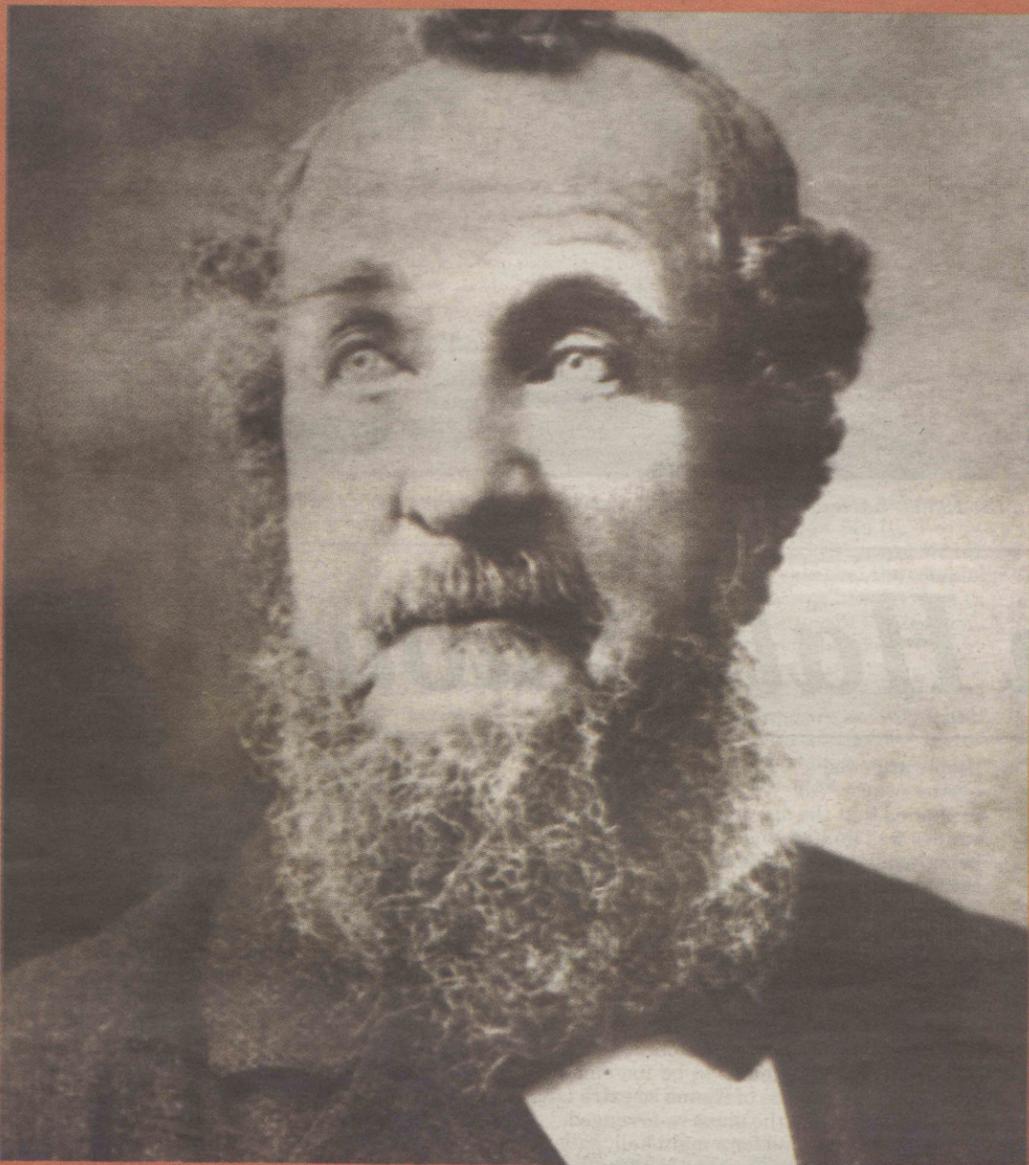


Kiama

MUNICIPALITY

OUR HISTORY
IN PRINT



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

Volume 12

COLLECTOR'S EDITION

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A Kiama Independent

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~ 1950-1959 ~

As with the period following the Great War, the 1950s represented a more upbeat period when people once again rejoiced in a new era of peace. Newspapers were again filled with items on local dances and community functions while weddings and their associated

reports were on the increase.

On the music front, a new medium known as 'rock 'n' roll' was being introduced to local dances while television brought the magic of picture theatres into people's living rooms.

Kiama High School was opened at long last, together with a new Kiama Convent School and the Jerrara Dam

project. Jamberoo and Gerringong Bowling Clubs were formed, together with a range of community service organisations including Rotary, Apex, the Soroptimists and the Kiama Boys' Club.

The Queen paid a visit in 1954 and a car-load of residents travelled to Mittagong to watch a 16-year-old Kiama teenager

carry the Olympic Torch on its way to the 1956 Melbourne Olympics.

After many years of talk, the municipalities of Kiama, Jamberoo and Gerringong finally amalgamated in a bid to escape becoming a 'County Council'.

By Michelle Hocter
Assistant: Chloe Ashbolt

More Supplements!

Due to an abundance of colourful history in the district, the Weston Family has commissioned the compilation of an additional two supplements to complete the *Our History In Print* series, bringing the total to be published to 14. The series will conclude in March, 2001.



Terralong Street in the 1950s - back when the Centrepoint Arcade was the site of the Kiama Motor Works - the local Holden agent.

Town Hall, Show Pavilion

Kiama Town Hall

For a period of almost 20 years the Kiama townsfolk endeavoured to have a stately community hall built. Given that such a hall was never constructed, their constant, tireless efforts made one sigh in frustration.

A committee was established in June, 1947, with the aim of constructing a "Memorial Town Hall and Soldiers' Club Room", but interest in the campaign meetings and fundraising events had dwindled by 1950. At the third annual meeting of the Kiama Memorial Town Hall and Soldiers Club Fund, held in August, 1950, only 17 people attended.

The following month, efforts were made to revive interest in the project when letters were sent to 548 householders at Kiama, Bombo and Minnamurra. A disappointing 30

people attended a follow-up meeting, chaired by the Mayor, Ald WR Holden. Ald Holden explained that the options for local gathering venues was limited, the Antrim Theatre only being available for picture screenings while the Oddfellows Hall was expected to be sold.

He said that the project, targeted for the site of the former Drill Hall and adjoining land at the back of the Kiama Council Chambers, had a target of £4000, half of which had already been raised. Council, arranged with its architect, Mr JP Tate & Associates, to prepare a sketch of the hall. The first plan was found to be too small to meet the future needs of Kiama so extra land was purchased and the plans re-arranged.

The plans provided for a main hall, gallery, vestibule, stage, supper room/drill hall, and ex-servicemen's rooms. Despite being exhibited in local shops for several months, the second set of plans, "no comments have been received from any person of local body".

Mr FE Reid said that while interest in the proposal had dwindled, and criticism had been received from some circles, "the growth of surrounding areas would force the erection of a new hall in Kiama". The project was also expected to gain new impetus from the formation of a new committee which would include "new blood". This committee consisted of Misses L Martin, M King, H McAuliffe, Mrs EH King, Mrs Wilson, Messrs J McDonald, J McGann, D Taylor, H Proctor and R Walker.

Despite hopes, no real action was taken on the matter until three years later, in October, 1953, when a "fact finding committee", established by a public meeting, met to recommend the most suitable site for a hall. Three potential sites were considered, the Kiama Showground, Manning Street behind the current Council Chambers, and a block opposite the Brighton Hotel.

Having considered the pros and cons, the committee decided that the best option would be the Manning Street block. And an examination of the finan-

cial prospects revealed that there was little chance of any success being achieved unless the building contained revenue-producing units which should take the form of shops or offices, or both.

The committee added that if another £2500 was raised, in addition to the existing funds of £2450, they would still have to raise £30,000, probably from Government sources.

Civic Centre Plan

In June, 1954, the Fact Finding Committee returned to the community with plans for not just a community hall, but a whole new civic development plan which included an additional 13 shops, 14 offices and several civic amenities. While the cost of the plan was estimated at £98,000, it was designed to be "practically self-supporting".

Outlining the scheme, Mr David Gordon said that an arcade of eight shops would be built behind the Council building in Manning Street, and underneath a new council chamber. A new library, including an attached unit, would be located on the Moreton Street frontage with rooms for the RSL above.

The auditorium would seat 1300 people while a Council Chamber, complete with public gallery, would be built between the auditorium and the present Council building. The scheme was unanimously supported by a well-attended meeting held the following week, and recommended for approval by the new Kiama Municipal Council.

New Meatmaster

"The latest move in mechanisation" in Kiama in June, 1951, was the installation of a meat cutting machine at Messrs Hall Bros butchery in Terralong Street. Working on the principle of a band saw this machine shorted the amount of time "necessary in the shop". Under the old hand system, the breaking down of a sheep carcass was cut from five to 10 minutes to just 70 seconds.

"Other advantages are that meat such as chops, steak etc can be easily cut up and displayed for customers to take their pick. Another obvious advantage from the housewife's point of view is that there are no chips of

bone as is the case when the bone in the meat is cut with a chopper."

Kiama Independent
June 9, 1951

Gerringong Water Supply

The process of finding a suitable water supply scheme for the community of Gerringong proved a drawn-out affair lasting more than 30 years. The search was begun in 1928 when the Public Works Department investigated a £41,000 scheme for a dam at Foxground Creek which would have supplied water to 652 residents, two butter factories and 2010 head of stock.

In 1929, council had two schemes under consideration, one for the Shoalhaven River and another for Foxground Creek. As the proposed Shoalhaven scheme was not expected to materialise for another 20 years, attention was focused on Foxground - before this idea also lapsed.

In 1949, hopes again ran high when the Mines Department suggested that a scheme be instituted by boring on Omega Flats which would have cost £50,000 as compared with the £71,000 Foxground scheme.

In 1950, engineering consultant, Mr Davey, was engaged by Gerringong Council to investigate the most feasible source of water. He suggested that a weir be built on Broughton Creek, this being supported by a public meeting addressed by Mr Davey in October, 1951.

Amazingly, nothing more was done until, finally, the Shoalhaven scheme was ready for construction and the community again turned its attention to a plan which had been passed over almost 30 years' earlier. The meeting referred the scheme to the Regional Association of Local Government to conduct a full investigation.

Showground Pavilion

On September 3, 1952, a meeting was held in the Kiama Council chambers to discuss the construction of a new pavilion and grandstand on Kiama Showground. The project had attracted strong criticism as it entailed the raising of £3000 - £1000 to be raised by the local sporting bodies which was not considered possible by some.

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Nurses' Home, Birrahlee

AVP Maguire House

The new nurses' home at Kiama District Hospital, AVP Maguire House, was officially opened by the Minister for Health, Mr CA Kelly, MLA, on March 18, 1950. As with the official opening of the Kiama Cottage Hospital and the District Hospital, the day was teeming with rain, forcing the festivities once again under cover.

Kiama Mayor, Ald WR Holden, said that the home, which included 29 bedrooms, was "not a luxury, it was an absolute necessity".

He said that the nursing staff undertook "a very arduous duty and were entitled to congenial quarters. When a nurse left home to take up this career, she gave up a lot and the most comfortable and homely quarters were required to compensate her for that sacrifice."

Ald HG Miller, Mayor of Gerringong, agreed. "Nothing is too good for those who ministered to the needs of the sick," he said. Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr Cyril Boyd, said that there had been some criticism of the decision to build the home before the maternity unit, but the construction of the home had to be undertaken first because the former isolation quarters, which was to be converted into a maternity wing, was currently being used as a sleeping quarters by the nursing staff who overflowed from Barroul House.

Mr Boyd said that the home had been named after the Hospital's Matron AVP Maguire who had "given good service to the hospital for over 16 years," he said. "Due to her efforts, Kiama was one of the few hospitals in the state which had not closed a ward or bed during the acute shortage of staff," he added.

Miss Maguire, in addressing the gathering, thanked the Board for the honour conferred upon her. She was also pleased to hear speakers say that nothing was too good for the nurses. "Things had changed from years gone by," she said.

The new two-storey home, built by contractor, Messrs AW Edwards Pty Ltd, had cost £85,000 together with £3300 in furnishings.

Ocean Views

Located to the east of the hospital, the building was 150ft x 40ft with large verandahs on the eastern side, overlooking Kendall's Beach. Inside the main door on the ground floor was the waiting room and Matron's suite while a long corridor ran the length of the building and adjoined the bedrooms which were each 9ft x 12ft.

A pantry/supper room was located at the end of the corridor and, descending three steps, a passageway opened up into the laundry and large nurses' recreation room.

On the first floor, more bedrooms were located, including four bedrooms for nurses who had been on night duty.

Birrahlee

In September, 1950, the Kiama Hospital Committee announced that it had selected a name for the soon-to-be opened maternity



A Dip in the Kiama Rock Pool

Local families take a dip in the Kiama Rock Pool in December, 1956.

PHOTO: Kates/Walker Family Collection

unit at Kiama Hospital. "Birrahlee", an aboriginal word meaning "baby", was chosen from suggestions including "Carinyah, Kiandool, Wyanga, Allambee, Warilda, Cherrylinda and Stella Maris".

The new maternity wing was occupied for the first time on June 20, 1951, completing a £50,000 program of construction. It involved the re-modelling of the former Isolation Block of five rooms, and the construction of additional sections at either end for extra wards, a nursery and delivery theatre. A new boiler room with a 40 foot chimney was also included to replace an inadequate boiler and hot water service.

The beds in each ward contained a stainless steel topped food table, metal locker painted cream, a wardrobe and two bridge chairs, the coverings matching the green quilt, which had each been embroidered with a huge "B" for Birrahlee. An "expectant father's room, in other words a waiting room for visitors" adjoined the west wing.

The "day room" was conveniently set out, it featuring a steam hot press in which meals could be kept hot, pending serving. A former chimney had been converted to a set of shelves which held the meal trays.

The delivery theatre was located at the end of the corridor, it departing from the "usual cold white of theatres", being painted pale blue. The scheme was complemented by a bright blue rubber floor, cream fittings and blue tiles.

The nursery was located in the north-east corner - away from the wards, it featuring six large windows which would admit "plenty of

sunshine". Visitors were able to view the babies through a large window, provided for the purpose.

Along the front of the building was a verandah, three-quarters of which was glassed in, where convalescent mothers could enjoy the sunshine.

The wing was not officially opened until November 24, 1951, when the Minister for Health, Mr M O'Sullivan, performed the honour.

Also in attendance were Kiama Mayor, Ald RW Walker, Jamberoo Mayor, Ald RC Warby, Shellharbour Mayor Ald KG Grey, and Mr HT Fowles MLA. Mr Fowles said that the completion of Birrahlee would "forge another link in completing the hospitalisation of the district".

Fight To Save Baby

Birrahlee made headlines in 1954 when a tiny baby girl, weighing only 2lb 9ozs, was born three months premature on July 9 and was being kept alive in an incubator. The little babe was the sixth child born to Kelso and Jane Fittler, of Gipps Street, Kiama, and was so far yet to be named.

"If the hopes of the hospital staff are realised and the tiny child comes through the next few critical days, the baby will be one of the smallest infants ever to have lived on the South Coast. Hospital workers are keeping their fingers crossed for the little scrap of life but for the circumstances the infant is surprisingly lusty."

Kiama Independent
July 17, 1954

A week later the Independent reported that the little girl, named Lynette, was still in an

incubator and being fed through a tube, but had regained her birth weight.

"Overtaxed"

By April, 1957, the maternity wing was reported as being "overtaxed" as a result of the increasing population of Oak Flats, Warilla and Shellharbour areas. The effects of the shortage was that some new mothers had to either curtail their stay by one to two days, or accept a transfer to the general ward.

Matron Maguire Resigns

After 22 years as Matron of Kiama District Hospital, Miss AVP Maguire tendered her resignation in March, 1955. Despite having passed through "many difficult periods of staff and accommodation shortages, she had by many various means, contrived to give the public of this district the best possible attention and had an enviable record of never having had to deny a bed to any sick person" (KI 26.3.55).

In addition to her normal duties, she had taken a great interest in raising funds for equipment for the hospital through her interest in the ladies' auxiliaries of the district and in other ways. She also took part in movements to secure better amenities in hospitals throughout the state. She was the first Secretary of the Institute of Hospital Matrons of NSW and ACT and a foundation Fellow of the College of Nursing.

In announcing her intention to terminate her services on June 30, 1955, Miss Maguire said that she was leaving to nurse her sick mother who was living alone at Kirribilli.

~ Television Comes to Kiama ~

It was news in November, 1954, when the Government announced its decision to establish national television stations in Sydney and Melbourne.

Tenders were called by the Post Office for the necessary equipment. Acting Postmaster-General, Sir William McBride, saying that tenders would be invited on November 25.

The first television transmission to a house at Kiama was received "very clearly" at the Surf Beach home of Kiama electrical and radio store owner, Mr Seldon Cocks, on July 25, 1956.

The test was successful with both sound and picture being received with clarity. The program was one of a number being conducted daily by the Sydney television station, TCN, for test purposes prior to the commencement of commercial programs on September 16.

The Kiama test was conducted in conjunction with Cakebread's Radio Co, of Port Kembla. Messrs C Williams and A Coull of Cakebread's erected the antennae both at Mr Cocks' shop in Manning

Street and at his home on the day of the transmission. The reception was good in both places. Mr Cocks said that he intended to install a television set at an early date for demonstration purposes.

On Sunday evening, September 16, 1956, history was again made when the first commercial television program was broadcast in Australia. Imagine the excitement of the small party of Kiama residents who had gathered in the Manning Street store of Mr Cocks to witness the event!

"The screening at Kiama was received with a minimum of interference and the sound was exceptionally clear and perfectly co-ordinated with the picture. The opening program was a most varied and interesting one. As an opening, a commentator gave an insight into the work that had gone into the preparation of the studio and the erection of the 650ft transmission tower at Woolahra. Technical experts from

TCN toured the world and gathered techniques and information which will allow the Australian programs to be shown as equal to any. Through the television cameras a tour of the studios was conducted. A



Actress, Lucille Ball.

series, 'This Is Television' then showed a preview of some of the programs to be televised from the sta-

tion. Features of the children's hour each evening included the well-loved characters of Mickey Mouse and Rin Tin Tin the wonder dog. Exciting shorts of space patrols and Walt Disney creations were included. Adult programs included Australian and American musical shows, a British drama and an American comedy. The drama featured Douglas Fairbanks Jnr in his own television program titled 'Douglas Fairbanks Presents'...The American comedies featured well-known artists Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz and also Robert Young. 'The Patti Page Show' from America and the 'Johnny O'Connor Show', the latter being a live Australian show, were better films in that the reaction of the unseen audience was heard and gave a more intimate and personal touch to the presentation. Musicals of this nature would be ideal for presentation during the course of a party where guests could dance, or just watch the numbers

being played and sung."

Kiama Independent
September 19, 1956

It is difficult to imagine all the possibilities which might have gone through the minds of the residents as they gathered around Seldon Cocks' television, enjoying the intimacy of a movie theatre in their own homes. Bert Weston was taken by the wonder of the live audience and the medium's versatility at parties. Regardless of people's opinion on television and the affect it might or might not have on the social consciousness, there is no denying the magic of television.

"The program concluded shots of the opening of the Katherine Dunham dancing show which opened at the Tivoli Theatre on Friday night. This latter item proved one of the advantages of television in that the world's greatest entertainment, plays, musicals, orchestral concerts etc can be taken right into the home."

Following the broadcast, the sale of television sets in the city was reported as brisk, sets varying in price from 200 to 300 guineas.

Kiama Primary/High School

Once the decision by the NSW Department of Education in February, 1949, to negotiate the purchase of 12.5 acres of land at Kiama for a high school, no further progress was made until September, 1950, when Mr HT Fowles, MLA, asked for an update in the Legislative Assembly.

The Education Minister, Mr RJ Heffron, said that while the provision of a secondary school was on the building program, he could not "intimate when the Department was likely to proceed with the construction".

Honour Roll

At a ceremony held at the school in December, 1950, Mr Fowles MLA unveiled the school's new Honour Roll which showed the names of pupils who had topped the primary and super primary sections. Dux of the primary school was shared between Robyn Tidmarsh and Graham Mackie while Jan Ziems and Warren Hart shared Dux of the Super Primary. He then presented the following awards for sport: Pennants won at the All Schools Championship at Wollongong:- Garry Stewart (athletics and swimming); Iris Piper (athletics); and Margaret Raftery (athletics).

P&C President, Mr Bruce East, gave a farewell speech to Headmaster, Mr Bloomfield, who was leaving to take up a position at Coff's Harbour.

Reference Library

In February, 1951, the community welcomed new Kiama Central School Headmaster, Mr HD Carruthers, whose appointment heralded a period of energetic activity, a sorely needed commodity during the community's fight for improved educational facilities.

At his first meeting with parents and staff, he proposed the establishment of a first-class reference library which he believed could be established within 10 years time, given sufficient public support. President of the Kiama P&C Association, Mr Bruce East, assured Mr Carruthers of the Association's willingness to cooperate and opened a fund for the library project.

The Kiama P&C staged its first school fete on October 31, 1952, during which hundreds of residents visited the displays and hunted for bargains at the various stalls. A highlight was the "mannequin parade" when "tiny tots, wearing Vivien Gowns, created amusement".

Also included was a cookery competition, a writing competition for the primary school children and nail driving competitions. Winners in the cookery section were: Orange cake - Mrs EJ Miller; Sponge sandwich - Mrs T McDonald; Sultana cake - Mrs O Grey; Sponge sandwich (iced) - Mrs Filmer; Scones - Mrs Filmer; Damper - Mrs James; Lamingtons - Mrs O Grey; Patty Cakes - Mrs W Boyce; Coconut Ice - Mrs Christophers; Homemade toffee - Mr B Wood; Fancy biscuits - Mrs T McDonald.

In the junior section: Sponge sandwich - Ailsa Alaban; Scones - Joan Sawtell; Patty cakes - Joan Sawtell and Damper - Alfred Perry. Writing: 1st class - R Potts; 2nd class - Coralie Wiley; 3rd class - Denise McFarlane; 4th class - Ruth Ware; 5th class - Wendy Hindmarsh; and 6th class - Edith Smith. Mrs FE Palin won the "Prettiest Apron" competition while Mr Jack Carson won the nail driving competition.

Minister's Promise

In November, 1951, members of the Kiama P&C met with the Minister, Mr Heffron, to determine the progress of the high school project. The deputation consisted of Association

President Mr East, Secretary Mr A Ziems, Ald RM Wilson (Kiama), Ald C Jones (Jamberoo) and Mr AM Trevallion (Town Clerk, Gerringong).

Mr East said that the P&C was "gravely concerned because of the fact that there was no practical evidence of building operations - no contractors had been engaged and no materials were on the site - although it was known that approximately 150 new secondary pupils were to be enrolled for the commencement of 1952".

Mr Heffron gave a commitment that he would "move heaven and earth" to ensure that Kiama's new high school would be completed in 1952 and that at least four new classrooms would be on site for the start of the 1952 school year.

New Headmasters

Despite the Minister's assurances, the school was not completed until the start of the 1954 school year. At this time two new principals were welcomed to the Kiama school community, Mr Stephen Frew, who replaced Mr Carruthers at Kiama Primary School, and Mr W McFaul, who arrived to take up his position as the first Principal of Kiama High School. Both men were welcomed to the community in a function held by the Kiama P&C in February, 1954.

P&C President, Mr Colin Raison, extended a welcome to Mr McFaul who arrived with his wife from an appointment at Parkes. Mr Raison had no doubt that Mr McFaul would "find many problems in establishing the new high school" and he appealed to the parents to give him every support.

Mr McFaul said that he would be glad when the high school moved into its own premises. He said that when some of his teaching colleagues heard he was applying for Kiama they thought he was foolish because of the troubles he would have to face. "But I believe we meet difficulties wherever we go and those things are a challenge to our character and perseverance," Mr McFaul said.

Mr Frew said he found the district charming and the children lovely, but "perhaps a little too noisy. But that would not last very long," he added, amid laughter. Further welcomes were given by the Mayors of Kiama, Gerringong and Jamberoo. During the evening, the gathering was entertained by musical items and recitations given by Miss Judith Hindmarsh, Miss Gai Insley, Mrs Carson, Mr E Palin and Mr H Johnson.

Split P&C

Two weeks later, at the Kiama P&C's annual meeting, it was announced that the Kiama Primary and new Kiama High Schools would be supported by two separate P&C Associations, following the P&C's decision to split.

As an indication of the support which was required for the High School, Mr McFaul said that £900 would be needed immediately for the purchase of text books.

An appeal was begun in mid-March, a letter from the P&C to parents saying that the sum paid in fees would not provide the equipment vital to making the school effective, "if the children of this area are to be given the opportunities for training and advancement that we regard as their birthright."

Meetings were also held throughout the district by Mr McFaul and supported by new Kiama High School P&C President, Mr Colin Raison. Ladies Auxiliaries were established locally and at Albion Park, Albion Park Rail and Oak Flats.



A View of Collins Street looking south to the Terralong Street intersection in the 1950s. Note the Oddfellows Hall on the corner where Kiama Leagues Club now stands. Photo: Kates/Walker Family Collection.

Within the week, it was announced that parents were responding well to the call for equipment which was coming in from all sections of the school district.

Combined Schools Concert

A Combined Schools Festival Concert was held at Kiama in May, 1954, the event being the first of its kind held on the South Coast. "Hundreds of children from all schools along the South Coast played and sang their hearts out" in the four-hour concert before an audience of 800 people.

The event also marked the first public performance of scholars from the newly established Kiama High School. The program opened with two patriotic songs sung by the choir of Kiama Primary School - "My Country" and "The Star Cross Flag of Australia". Kiama Infants performed a play, "In Tulip Land", while the Gerringong children performed Gilbert and Sullivan's "Three Little Maids" and "Tit Willow", followed later by a Japanese playlet, "Hameruchi Go Hei". The Jamberoo youngsters staged "Goodwill The Magician" while the children of the Kiama Convent School sang "The Parrot" and "Good Bless Our Land".

First Athletics Carnival

Kiama High School held its first athletics carnival in August, 1954, and the individual age champions were:

Girls: 12yrs E Symonds; 13yrs H Sweet and M Anger, tie; 14yrs D Swan; and 15yrs B Langlois. Boys: Under 12yrs P de Beuzeville; U/13yrs J O'Hara; U/14yrs K Carson; U/15yrs R

Trevallion; U/16yrs R Carson. Open: B Boxsell.

Numbers Increase

In May, 1956, in an address to parents, Mr McFaul announced that in the two years the Kiama High School had been in operation, the number of students had increased from 350 to 500. He added his disappointment, however, at the number of students progressing to their fifth year. He appreciated how hard it was for those who continued to fifth year "to settle down when they had the knowledge that many of their associates had left school and were earning big money in jobs". In continuing, Mr McFaul proved that he was very much of the old school.

"Mr McFaul commented on the lack of discipline in these times and attributed much of the cause to a dislike for restraint and authority. He said that was in evidence, not only among children, but among adults as well. He thought the cause of that was due largely to the prosperity Australia enjoyed today. He recalled a time when wages and working conditions in Australia were most inadequate and although he did not advocate a return to those times, he felt people should reorientate themselves to think more of the things that mattered. He said some children were left too much on their own, some were allowed too much liberty and stayed out too late at night."

Kiama Independent
June 2, 1956

Two new buildings arrived at the school in April, 1957, which were used by two general activities classes. A new fence around the school was also completed.

Van Park, Milk Crisis, Tennis

Kiama Caravan Park

Plans to build a caravan park on Chapman's Point were approved by Kiama Council in September, 1952, following an address by Mr L Thang, of Sydney, who applied to use two acres of the point, just south of the hockey field. The park would hold 30 vans and include showers and a lavatory block. Council agreed to a three-year lease at a rental of £156 a year.

Milk Crisis

In 1952, the dairy community was panicked by a rumoured reduction in the price of milk. Concerns were allayed by the Premier of NSW, Mr JJ Cahill, who pledged during an address at Albion Park in January, 1953, that his Government would not ask dairymen to provide milk at a loss. "Milk meant money to the country and the nation," the Minister said, "and it also meant health to the people."

"My Government will do its utmost to provide money, co-operation, skilled advice, help with breeding and any other means to build up the dairy industry of this coast," he said. "The public must have that milk, but the dairymen must - and will - be given the incentive of a fair profit."

One week later, Milk Board Chairman, Mr J Ferguson, said that any decrease in the price of milk

could only be justified on direct evidence of a reduction in costs.

He said that it would be no use to appeal for improved pastures, or for bigger herds or mechanisation if the farmer was not given the incentive to produce, or the money for expansion.

Mr Ferguson said the Board felt that "now the doubts and suspicions had been removed from the farmers' mind and he will get a just consideration and fair return for his effort, he will give that effort needed during the (oncoming) winter months".

Toolijooa School Relocated

In September, 1953, the former Toolijooa Public School was relocated to Gerringong to meet and accommodation crisis at Gerringong Public School.

Kiama Tennis Club

The new Kiama Town Tennis Club was formed in October, 1953, its office bearers being: President, Mr N Cantrill; Vice-presidents Messrs RR Smith and E Sebbens; Treasurer Mr R Quiggan; Secretary Mr F Griffiths; Assistant Secretary Miss B Perrott; and Committee Messrs P Tall, C Smylie, G Cook, R Wood, W Lay and Mrs Lay. The Junior Prefects, appointed to supervise play of the juniors, were Mr G Mackie and Mr P McDonald.

Free Milk for School Children

In November, 1957, the Minister for Education, Mr RJ Heffron, said that arrangements had been made with the Commonwealth Government for the supply of milk, free of charge, to all children attending primary school and pre-school groups.

Under the new ruling, a one-third pint of milk would be supplied to each child, on each school day.

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Jerrara Dam, Sewerage

Jerrara Dam

While Kiama Council continued to work for the establishment of a supplementary source of water, a new problem struck in the New Year of 1952. With water at Fountindale dam falling to an alarmingly low level, the supply was revealed as having a "sour odour and an unpleasant taste". Town Clerk, Mr Harold Lyons said that this was usual when the level of the storage dam fell and he felt confident the water was "fit for drinking and harmless to health".

In March, 1952, Kiama's Ald Phillips and Ald Hindmarsh spoke out, saying that the water quality was not due to low supply levels but Council's neglect of the dam. "The Council is culpable and I'm disgusted that our neglect has brought the dam to such a state," Ald Hindmarsh said. He added that the cleaning of the siltation traps was a major priority. With each passing day, it was evident that the Kiama scheme was in need of a major overhaul.

Having accepted the Minister for Public Works recommendation that a scheme be developed at Jerrara Creek, little advancement was made until September, 1953, when contractors moved in to commence clearing the site.

In February, 1954, the new dam was reported to be "brimming over after heavy rains" while many residents had made the journey to "catch their first glimpse of the water that will make the town supply assured". The dam had a capacity of about 57 million gallons and this, with the present Fountindale Dam, would make a total of 70 million gallons, once the pumps were installed.

The new £121,050 dam was officially opened by the Minister for Public Works and Local Government, Mr JB Renshaw, on October 7, 1955. Following the ceremony, a luncheon was held at the Brighton Hotel at which Kiama Myor, Ald Gus Chittick, reflected that it had been 53 years since the Fountindale dam was first opened and during which "he remembered the workers digging with picks and shovels".

Mr Chittick said that the northern site of the dam had been bought by his father some 60 years earlier and had been taken over by his brother, Ald CR Chittick, 43 years ago.

The Member for Illawarra, Mr Howard Fowles MLA, paid tribute to Mr Chittick for not opposing the acquisition of his land which had been "dear to his heart and the home of the 'Lemon Grove' stud for more than 40 years". In introducing the Minister, said that the new dam would "have an impact on Kiama" and would "supply the needs for many years to come".

Vandalism

The dam certainly made an impact six weeks later when vandals tampered with the remote control of the pumps, causing the reservoir to run dry. Regular inspections of the dam on weekends was also introduced to prevent such a calamity from recurring.

Wreck of "Kiama"

The SS Kiama foundered in heavy seas off Tuggerah, Newcastle, on January 22, 1951,



The intersection of Terralong and Collins Streets during the 1950s when the Kiama Motor Works was located on the corner which is today occupied by the Centrepoint Arcade. Photo: Kates/Walker Family Collection.

resulting in the drowning deaths of six crew members, including the Captain, Trygve Olsen, 50, of Rose Bay.

The ship had set off from port the night before, carrying a heavy cargo of coal which shifted, causing a dangerous list to port. The list increased and, 15 minutes after departure, Captain Olsen gave the order to abandon ship.

The list prevented the launching of the life boats and the crew of 12 jumped overboard, wearing life jackets, and watched as the ship slowly sank. An SOS was sent out by wireless, but heavy seas prevented a freighter from picking up any of the survivors.

The Kiama had been scheduled to visit Kiama at the time of the tragedy, but rough seas caused the port's closure, forcing the vessel on to Newcastle. It was on the return trip from Newcastle that the tragedy occurred.

In the wake of the sinking, it was also learned that Captain Olsen had tendered his resignation two weeks earlier while the ship's mate, Kurt Knutsen, 60, was on temporary assignment while the regular mate took his holidays.

The Kiama, which weighed 600 tons, was owned by HR Lancey Shipping Pty Ltd and had replaced the SS Bombo which sank off Port Kembla two years earlier.

RSL Christmas Tree

Santa Claus carried out his deliveries in a jeep during the Christmas of 1953 when 200

children gathered at Kiama Showground to receive a present. It was all part of the Kiama RSL Club's annual Christmas Tree when Santa (Mr Joe Ryder), arrived in weather too hot for reindeers and sleigh - so he came in a jeep instead.

Aside from a gift, the children were also provided with bottles of drink, tea, cakes, sandwiches and bags of sweets. The Diggers, under the guide of Mr Allan Zeims, provided "a bumper tree and led the kiddies in singing Christmas carols and 'Jingle Bells'." During the afternoon, Miss Pam Creighton, of Bombo, won a turkey.

Sewerage Scheme

In 1955, Kiama Council requested the Government to carry out an investigation into a sewerage scheme for Kiama. The request was met, the Government saying that the scheme would consist of 54,000 feet of sewers and would service 455 residences at a cost of £267,000.

In releasing these figures, however, Public Works and Local Government, Mr JB Renshaw, said that sewerage at Kiama was unlikely to be undertaken "for some time". He asked that Council nevertheless consider the proposal and advise whether it would adopt the plans in principle.

Ald RM Wilson said that "sewerage must come" and moved the Council adopt the scheme in principle. This was carried by the majority.

October Festival

Kiama's first "seaside festival" was held in 1956 after a contingent of Kiama business people united to decide the best way to attract visitors to the township.

At a meeting held the coming February, it was decided a week-long festival be held in October. Fifty percent of funds raised would be donated to the long-suffering Memorial Town Hall project.

In addressing the meeting, Kiama Chamber of Commerce President, Mr Hedley Johnson, said that the idea of a festival was first mooted by the Kiama Rotary and Apex Clubs and the Chamber had then taken up the challenge. He said the Chamber was convinced that if such a festival were properly conducted, it would be of lasting advantage to Kiama.

It was decided that events would include a "popular male" and "popular girl" competition, sporting competitions, a float procession, carnival attractions and rides, open air dancing and visits by various celebrities.

A "Name the Festival" competition was also launched to promote additional interest in the festival.

The festival, ultimately called the "Kiama Blowhole Springtime Festival", raised £1800, of which £1000 was donated to the Memorial Hall project. The festival proved so successful that, within the month, moves were made to establish a planning committee for the 1957 festival.

Leaning Arch, Pre-Fab Home

The Leaning Arch of Kiama

Doubts about the safety of the Kiama Memorial Arch were raised in April, 1953, when it was found that the 28-year-old monument was starting to tilt. At a meeting of Kiama Council, Ald Hindmarsh "put it straight", asking whether the arch was "going to fall down eventually".

Ald RM Wilson said that a ganger had declared the memorial safe some months ago, but Ald Hindmarsh was not convinced. "I don't like the look of it," he said. "It doesn't look safe to me." When it was suggested that the arch might have been deliberately built on a lean to "counteract prevailing winds", Ald Hindmarsh retorted, "They would never build it so much out of true - it is leaning over a good nine inches."

He said that he knew the foundations on which the arch was built and he "did not like it at all".

First Pre-Fab Home

Work on the first pre-fabricated house built in Kiama was begun in March, 1954, on a block in Bong Bong Street for Mr A Roy. Claimed by agents JN King and Sons to be "the answer to Kiama's housing shortage", the new "pre-fab" had aroused considerable interest.

The model being built was the "Elizabeth", a weatherboard, three bedroom house of "a simple but attractive design". The estimated time of construction was three weeks. The Elizabeth was one of 17 home designs available for prices ranging from £1700 to £5000.

"Sections of the home arrived on the site, numbered and coded like a meccano model, and were lifted into position so that within a week the walls were up, the roof pitched and the tiling started."

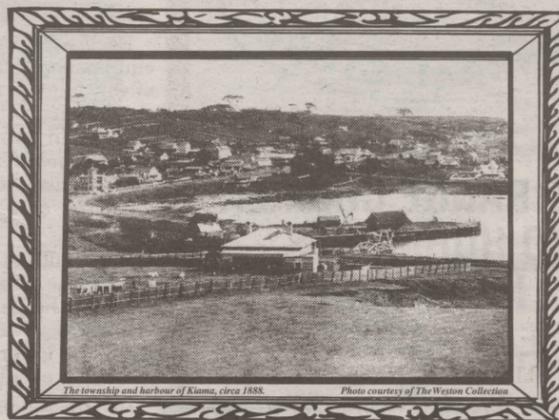
Kiama Independent
March 6, 1954

Market Day

Escape spending was evident in Kiama in 1955 when the Kiama Chamber of Commerce inaugurated the first of its "Shopping Days" on designated Thursdays to "encourage people to shop in their own town where prices and quality were as competitive as in Sydney or other large towns".

In March, 1955, the days were reported to be so popular that future shopping days were assured. Chamber Secretary, Mr E Baker, said that some of the specials offered were "most attractive" and several shops were crowded with shoppers soon after their 9am opening.

HISTORICAL PRINTS OF LOCAL KIAMA AREAS AND LANDMARKS



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Kiama Convent School

In December, 1950, Catholic Parish Priest, Father Irish, announced that Kiama would have a new, modern convent school in the near future. Father Irish said that a contract had been let with a city firm for a building to replace the present one. Work was expected to start on January 15, 1951.

The projected cost of the new school was £10,950 and "already a considerable portion of this amount is in hand".

School Blessing

Vicar-General of the Archdiocese of Sydney, Monsignor Richard Collender, blessed and officially opened the new, nearly completed "Convent School of Peter and Paul" on January 20, 1952, before an audience of clergy and laity totalling 200.

At the same time, administrator of St Mary's Basilica, Monsignor P Flanagan, launched an appeal for funds to pay for the £15,000 building. The list was opened with a £25 donation from Cardinal Gilroy and £200 from an anonymous donor.

Chairman, Father Irish, welcomed the "elder and saintly" Monsignor Collender, together with Kiama Mayor, Ald Ray Walker, who said that this was the second visit to Kiama by the Monsignor, the first being a week-long stay in 1892. He said that Monsignor Collender had been associated with former Kiama parish priest, the beloved Dean Malone, in a friendship dating back to college days.

The Mayor praised Father Irish, whose "foresight and energy had brought great good to Kiama and district and whose driving spirit had brought into being the new school". "We hope that this building will give the 50-60 years service of the old school," he said.

The Right Rev Monsignor Collender congratulated the parishioners on their courage for "facing up to the task of building such a school in a small parish". "It is hard to picture a more beautiful setting anywhere," he added. He explained why "Catholics undertake such formidable debts". "It is the duty of parents," he said, "to give their children the opportunity to know their duty to God, and to know right from wrong."

Mr FE Kearns explained the effects of the Henry Parkes Secularisation of Education Act and said that Catholics owed a great debt to the hierarchy of the church for having provided christian schools. "They are the men who have given us the faith that is in us," he said, "and we owe them a debt that can only be repaid by our prayers."

The appeal for donations was then opened, the list including Mr J Byrne £100, Mrs H Piercy £30, Mr J Devery & Son £25, Mr CT McGlinchey £20, Mr B Ettingshausen £20, Mr TW Quinn £20, Mr JJ Quinn £20, Mrs M Bergin £10, Mr CG McGlinchey & Son £10, Mrs CB O'Dwyer £5, Mr J Cronin £5, Mr P Devery £5, Mrs K Murphy £5, Mrs J O'Dwyer £5, Mrs J O'Keefe £5, Mr and Mrs T Gannon £5, the Brennan family £5, the Very Rev Mon Collender £5, Mr TW Patton £5, Mr L O'Dwyer £5, Mrs M Mosckos £5, John, Mary and Michael Cronin £5, Miss E Cullen £3, and Mr JP Quinn £3. More than £400 was collected in total.



An excellent photo of the lower end of Terralong Street in the 1950s which shows Torys Hotel on the corner and Mr Ern Palin's store, among others.

Photo: Kates/Walker Family Collection

The new school replaced the old wooden building which had served as a school for the past 60 years.

Interestingly, the old school was originally used by the contractor who was constructing the Kiama railway link.

When he had no further use for it, the building was bought by the Church Committee and moved to its new home at the rear of the church.

The architect of the new school was Mr Edward Green and the builder Mr H Simpson, both of Sydney. The contract price was £10,950, but this was expected to increase to £15,000 due to "increases".

School Opens

The Convent School of Peter and Paul was used for the first time on Tuesday, May 6, 1952, when the children resumed lessons after their May vacation. Described by the *Independent* as "one of the finest buildings erected in the district in recent years", the school was built at the rear of the 94-year-old church, overlooking Surf Beach.

Besides serving as a school, the building had been designed for use as a hall for functions in connection with the church. Entrance to the school was on the western side into a room some 60ft long by 15ft wide. To the left of the entrance was a kitchen equipped with a servery window. From this room, double doors led into the main section of the school which measured 30ft x 100ft and which was divided into three classrooms by folding doors.

Each of the classrooms was equipped with twin desks and chairs of varying size to suit the size of the children using them. The walls were painted in two tones of soft green which "should cause no eye strain to children watching their teacher, as is often the case with white painted walls".

Plenty of natural light was emitted by the windows which covered most of the eastern wall from the ceiling to within three feet of the floor. The lower panes were of arctic glass to prevent distraction.

In the kindergarten room, nine blackboards were located below sill height to be "within reach of the tiny tots". Externally, the building featured a grey tiled roof while the window sashes and other trimmings were painted yellow.

Gerringong Post Office

On March 20, 1950, a deputation consisting of Gerringong Mayor, Ald HG Miller and Town Clerk, Mr AM Trevallion, met with the NSW Deputy Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Mr SF Kellock, to campaign for the construction of a new post office.

Mr Miller said that the Gerringong community had "commenced a fine community effort by the construction of a £20,000 town hall, replete with all the offices and conveniences", while the Council had made an offer of land alongside the hall for the construction of a post office which would be "in keeping with the dignity of the plan". The delegation suggested that "the site on top of the hill with the glorious aspect deserved the erection of a post office building in keeping with its surroundings."

"Mr Kellock explained that the Postal Department needed more space today, because scientific apparatus now being developed needed adequate housing accommodation for installation. He said it was possible on two lines to send 17 telephone messages at the same time, and on each of the 17 channels, 18 telegraphic signals per speech channel, a total of 306. By using the Muray Multiplex, this amazing use can be multiplied by eight."

Kiama Independent
March 29, 1950

The deputation was left to consider the need for a more expanded site for the post office.

Agitation for a post office was renewed by the Gerringong District Citizens' Committee in October, 1952, when a letter was sent to the PMG Department through Mr Jeff Bate, MP. The Department had bought land in Fern Street for a new post office, but previous efforts by the committee and Gerringong Council to hasten the project had been met by the reply that the financial program did not allow for the Gerringong building.

By February, 1956, the issue was still being overlooked, forcing the community to raise a petition protesting the condition of the Post Office, this to be presented to the Post-master General and supported by photographs which would show the state of the building.

At a public meeting held to discuss the predicament, Gerringong Citizens' Committee President, Mr SGW Miller, said that the situation was "a scandalous state of affairs" for a town like Gerringong. "If we don't fight we will never reach our objective of a new building," he said.

The community did not have their new post office by 1957, but this did not stop them from celebrating the centenary of the Gerringong Post Office in July of that year. While early records of the post office were not available, it was known that the office was opened on April 1, 1857.

The name of the first postmaster was also

not known, but Anne Fuller was in charge in December, 1859, before she was succeeded by Mr Thomas Day, who bought her store. He took charge on February 1, 1860, on a wage of £12 per annum. Other postmasters who predated 1900 were:

- **Miss Julia E Acheson** who took over on January 1, 1864. Mr Neale Sharpe, of Gerringong, was one of her sureties while Messrs M Hindmarsh, Charles Johnston and Andrew Nelson signed her petition. Miss Acheson kept the post office at a local hotel, of which she was licensee.

- **Mr MF Egan** took over on January 1, 1865, after Miss Acheson resigned. He then kept the post office at his store.

- **Timothy O'Brien** bought Egan's store and became postmaster as from January 1, 1868, the salary by this time having been increased to £18 per annum.

- **Stephen Major** took over both the store and the post office on April 1, 1870.

- **George F Davis** succeeded Mr Major on March 1, 1873, he having been employed at Major's store for several years. On October 21, 1879, a telegraph office was opened at Gerringong, presumably in Mr Davis' store as he was appointed in charge. At that time the Telegraph Department and the Postal Department were separate organisations. An "ABC" telegraph was used to communicate with Kiama. By now, Mr Davis' salary had reached £76 per annum.

- **Alexander Robb** took over the store and post office on January 14, 1885. His sureties were Alexander Campbell, auctioneer, and George J Hindmarsh, farmer. The room in which the Postal and Telegraphic business was conducted was of timber and measured only 10ft x 6ft. Mr Robb sold the business to Mr MF Egan, but the Department decided to remove the office to a cottage opposite the store. The cottage was rented from Mr Alex Campbell for eight shillings per week.

- **Mr FW O'Brien**, from Edgecliff, was appointed to the official office and took over on December 8, 1887, his salary being £100 per annum.

- **Mrs Keziah O'Brien**, wife of Mr FW O'Brien, took charge of the office on June 25, 1890, after her husband died.

Tenders were invited in October, 1895, for a site for a post and telegraphic office. Several blocks were offered but only two were really suitable, being near the railway station at about £100 each with 90ft frontage. The following month, however, a deputation from Gerringong Council saw the Postmaster-General in Sydney, asking that the post office remain in the old part of town.

At this stage the readily available records came to an end, but it was known that Mrs O'Brien was still in charge in 1898.

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Surf Clubs, Fire Brigade

Gerringong Surf Club

The citizens of Gerringong "made an important, progressive decision" on May 8, 1951, when it decided to form the Gerringong Surf Club at a well-attended meeting in the Town Hall. The meeting was called by Gerringong Council at the request of the Gerringong Citizens' Committee.

Committee President, Mr JB Devery, in addressing the meeting, said that he looked forward to the project receiving the co-operation of the community and that the club would be formed "on a sound basis and function successfully".

Representative of the Illawarra Branch of the Surf Life Saving Association, Mr Carr, said that while the Illawarra branch boundary came to Kiama, he felt the branch would want to incorporate a Gerringong club, especially as it was located only a few miles away. Kiama Club member, Mr H Tuohy, said that if the club was formed, his club would donate a reel while the members would assist in any other avenue possible.

Messrs V Ball and L O'Dempsey then moved that the club be formed and this was carried. Officials elected were: President Mr GJ Miller; Vice-president Mr F Lyndon; Secretary Mr MP Rainsford; Treasurer Mr H Roache; and Management Committee, Messrs V Blackmore, C Chittick, R Jones and E Bowen.

In August, 1952, at a meeting of Gerringong Surf Club members and associates, it was decided to build a club house on Werri Beach. A district appeal for funds for the building and equipment was subsequently launched.

Club President, Mr Miller, said that the State Superintendent had intimated that loan funds of up to £500 and a grant of £250 would be made available. It was resolved to proceed with the preparation of the plans, which were based on the Bulli Club House plans, at a cost of £750 for a weatherboard structure.

At the suggestion of Messrs WH Bailey and H Cohen, prices would also be sought for a "higher standard of design and construction", with possibly a brick front.

A variety of views were expressed as to whether the building should be located at the southern or northern end of Werri Beach. Mr F Lyndon and Mr PJ Noble moved that the site be at the eastern end of Sandy Wha Road, to the south of the beach. The President said that the northern end was more popular for local surfers while being closer to Werri residents, but his amendment was defeated in favour of the southern site.

Mr Colin Sharpe then moved that a district appeal for funds be launched and this was carried unanimously. Appointed official collectors were: Werri Beach - Mr George Young; Gerringong Town, Mr V Ball; Berry, Messrs D Miller and P Morrissey; Foxground Mr D Sharpe; Toolijooa Mr C Sharpe; Willow Vale Mr WH Bailey; Rose Valley Mr GJ Miller and Gerroa Mr F Lyndon.

Over the next eight years, the club folded, only to be reformed on October 15, 1959, when six Gerringong life savers gave their services as active members of the club. They were Barry Watson aged 16, Garry Rodgers 19, Garry Dodd 18, Graham Miller 18, Peter Medenis 16, and Bruce Colyer 25.

Elected President of the newly-formed club was Mr LW Watson, while Vice-presidents Messrs A Sparks Sen, and SJ Moore Jun; Secretary-Treasurer Mr G Giles; Club Captain V Firkin and Vice-captain G Miller.

Kiama Surf Club

At a meeting held by the Kiama Surf Life Saving Club in May, 1957, initiatives were considered for the following year including a membership drive and Thursday night dances when rock 'n' roll competitions would be staged with a prize of ten guineas.

The only problem for the club was that its current club house was not large enough to accommodate dances or an increase in numbers. As a result, the meeting agreed that a "bigger, brighter" club was in order, one which would be large enough to accommodate two surf boats and many surf skis, a dance floor, ambulance room and clubroom for the Ladies' Auxiliary.

Fire Brigade Honours

In October, 1953, Kiama Fire Brigade Captain, Mr WR Holden, was honoured as the longest serving volunteer fireman in NSW at a function of the Board of Fire



Fire Brigade Honours

Six volunteer firemen from the Kiama Fire Brigade were recognised for long service in November, 1956. They are pictured (back from left) Bert Weston, Bill Boyce, Reg Fisher, Tot Meredith, (front) Rusty Filmer, Wattie Holden (Captain) and Jack McGarry.

Commissioners. Mr Holden had given 17 years' service to the brigade. He was presented with a medal recognising the honour, while fellow volunteer, Mr Stuart Warnock, was presented with a 15 years long service medal.

Chairman of the Board, Mr TJ Smith, said that the Fire Service was often taken too much for granted. He said that while the annual cost in Sydney was £1,500,000, in the country the men were volunteers. They numbered 4000 trained fire-fighters in 200 brigades.

Six volunteer firemen from the Kiama Brigade were among officers who received 15-years long service medals at a function held at Corrimal in November, 1956. There were Messrs E Filmer, L Meredith, W Boyce, AJ Weston, R Fisher and J McGarry.

A special presentation was also made by the Board of Fire Commissioners to Kiama Captain Wattie Holden in appreciation of his completing 50 years' service with the brigade. Mr Howard Fowles, MLA, said that the people of Kiama were appreciative of the services rendered by Captain Holden. In addition to his fire service, he had been an alderman of Kiama Council for 23 years and Mayor of Kiama for 11 years.

Acting Chief Officer, Mr WH Pye, said that during the war the volunteer fire service was so highly organised that, in the event of an attack, they would have been swiftly transported to the cities to assist permanent men. "They would also play a large part in combating fires in the event of an atomic attack," Mr Pye added.

Naturalisation Ceremonies

The Drill Hall in Manning Street was not large enough to seat all those who attended the naturalisation ceremony of five residents held on May 1, 1956.

Those naturalised were Dr and Mrs Eugene Baranowsky, of Kiama, who came from the Ukraine; Dr and Mrs Artis Medenis, of Gerringong, from Latvia, and Mrs H Stone, of Jerrara, from Austria.

The proceedings opened with a program of songs by Mrs Cyril Sharpe, Mrs Ern Palin and Mr Allsopp. Kiama Mayor, Ald Gus

Chittick, said how pleased he was to see so many people present "to welcome these people to Australian citizenship". He said that naturalised persons were given the same privileges enjoyed by a native born Australian, of freedom to speak and worship as they pleased, to elect their representative to parliament and local government and, if so desired, to stand for these positions.

Mr JRM Miller, Chairman of the Directors of the Dairy Farmers' Milk Co, supported the remarks of the Mayor as the Baranowsky and Medenis families had been "loyal and friendly officers" of the Animal Welfare Service while Mrs Stone was the wife of a well-known farmer.

After the renunciation of allegiance to a foreign state and oath of allegiance to the Queen and Australia was administered, the Mayor presented certificates on naturalisation to each participant and their children, Peter Medenis, Mary Baranowsky and Denis Stone.

New ES&A Bank

A new office of the ES&A Bank was officially opened at Jamberoo on November 14, 1956, by Kiama Mayor, Ald Gus Chittick. The bank - which today houses a real estate agency - was described as "another interesting example of modern bank construction in NSW".

"The glass front doors open into a pleasing and brilliantly lit banking chamber with customers' desks to the left and a curved counter to the right. There are no high partitions and fittings and tellers' boxes are restricted in height to about one foot above counter level, giving a spatial effect, to customers and staff alike. The bank floor is covered with black and surf green lino tiles set in stripes. Two

entire walls are of pale apricot face bricks - beyond the counter is a green wall which forms the front of the strong-room and the managers' office. The counter top is red and is fronted with polished maple...To help the whole effect of a friendly, informal atmosphere, flower boxes have been placed down the street front, and pot plants have been placed inside the windows...Oil-filled electric convection heaters have been fit-

ted, for Jamberoo's winter climate can be very cold."

Kiama Independent, November 14, 1956
Special guest at the opening was the ES&A's Chief Manager for NSW, Mr ME Calder, who moved on to Gerringong to inspect the ES&A's newly reconstructed bank premises. Mr AW Dane, Manager of the Jamberoo ES&A Bank, moved into the premises the day after the opening.

Rock 'n' Roll 'Orchestra'

That blasphemous musical medium known as "Rock 'n' Roll" took Kiama by storm in March, 1957, when a "rock and roll orchestra" played at a Kiama Surf Club revue held in the Antrim Theatre. The party-goers "refused to let the orchestra leave the stage" as they insisted that more and more encores be played.

The function also included items by operatic tenor Ivor Sheridan and baritone Lyle Luchetti while local items were provided by Paddy Martin's troupe and Miss Yvonne Lyle's dancing students.

A male fashion parade proved a hit, the "models" being surf club members Dallas Tidmarsh, Trevell Best and Noel Boyce of Kiama, and Guy Crittenden, Michael King, Don Johns and Jack Underwood, of Wollongong.

The revue was voted as "one of the best entertainments ever held in the district".

Bread Home Delivered

In August, 1954, a concerted effort was made to have a home bread delivery service established in the Kiama district.

It followed a campaign by the Kiama CWA and Kiama branch of the Australian Labor Party on the grounds of "service to the community".

Application forms were distributed to households throughout the district and were being collected in time for the arrival of an officer of the Department of Labour and Industry.

These forms were to be served on local bakers who were to begin home deliveries by Monday, September 6, 1954. Bakers

were told that failure to do so could cost them their operating licences.

"You may rest assured that I will have no hesitation in prosecuting bakers in Kiama...who refuse to make deliveries when they have been served with reasonable demands," the Minister said.

Within the week it was announced that "a large number of forms" had been served on the Manning Street baker who would commence deliveries on September 6, as required. Orders served on the Terralong Street bakery, however, would have to wait until the master baker returned from holidays.

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Queen Elizabeth II Visits

In the much anticipated lead-up to the Australian tour of Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh in 1954, both Kiama and the Gerringong communities were abuzz with hopes that Her Royal Highness would include their townships in her itinerary.

In November, 1952, Kiama Mayor, Ald Ray Walker, sent a letter to Buckingham Palace, singing Kiama's praises and asking the Queen to officially open the 106th Annual Kiama Show on January 30, 1954.

"Kiama...is the most picturesque seaside resort in New South Wales," Ald Walker wrote, "with an historical background of early Australia history...The district is known as the cradle of the dairying industry of Australia and the birthplace of the only Australian breed of cattle - the Illawarra Shorthorn. The first butter to be sent to Britain from Australia was made and shipped from here. The Kiama Agricultural and Horticultural Association is the oldest on the state's South Coast...Should Her Majesty gra-

viously consent to this humble request the people of this town would be overjoyed at the opportunity of expressing their unbounded loyalty and affection for Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh, who are very dear to our hearts."

It was a pretty convincing argument, but then the Gerringong community also had a claim on the fame stakes. Local resident, Mr EH Maclean, suggested that the Queen and Duke visit the spot from which Sir Charles Kingsford Smith began his epic flight across the Tasman Sea to New Zealand and Gerringong Council thought the idea was worthy of support.

Kiama's hopes were dashed, however, with the news that the Queen would be in New Zealand at the time of the 1954 Show. As the inclusion of a royal visit to the Kiama Show was still being considered by the Commonwealth Royal Itinerary Committee, discussions were made to re-schedule the 1954 Show dates.

But it was all to no avail. Ultimately, it was decided that the Queen would visit Wollongong

before rushing away to her next engagement.

Royal Visit

Royal fever greeted the Queen's visit to Wollongong on February 11, 1954, and the Kiama Independent devoted three news pages to the coverage with headings such as "Royal Salute from the Coast", "Queen Thrilled At Children's Cheers", and even "What Was The Queen Wearing?" and "Her Hat Blew Off", documenting how a schoolgirl's hat blew off while speaking with Her Majesty.

"Tumult of Welcome for Royal Pair"

Amid colourful scenes of excitement and jubilation in Wollongong on Thursday, the people of the South Coast gave their beloved Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh a tumultuous welcome. Along the densely packed, five mile route, gay with decorations, the packed thousands roared their greetings from the roadside, from shop windows and balconies. One of the most spontaneous gestures on this epic day came from the 14,000 children on the

Showground when they stampeded to catch a glimpse of the Royal Couple. And although the celebrations were held in Wollongong, Her Majesty did not forget the towns along the South Coast which she was unable to visit, and sent them a Royal message. From early morning, defying the threatening rain - which fortunately cleared up - the people from the South Coast towns poured in to Wollongong to take up their positions. They came by car, by bus and by train, and waited hours for the great moment. In Crown Street, colourful with streamers and bunting, and flanked by Naval men from Nowra, they began to cheer everything that came along before the royal car was due to arrive. The cheering reached its peak when the royal couple, preceded by the mounted policemen, stopped at the Town Hall entrance. It went on as the Queen mounted the dais...In the gusty wind that was blowing few people were able to hear her words but when she ended there was a fresh outburst of sound."

Kiama Independent February 13, 1954

Local dignitaries were then presented to the Queen including Kiama Mayor and Mayoress, Ald and Mrs Ray Walker, Gerringong Mayor and Mayoress, Ald and Mrs Gus Chittick, and Jamberoo Mayor and Mayoress, Ald and Mrs CR Chittick.

Travelling on to inspect a parade of ex-servicemen, the first man the Queen addressed was the Secretary of Kiama RSL, Mr Ben Medcalf. "Where do you come from?" she asked. When Mr Medcalf said Kiama, she asked where that was. She then asked about his service with the 1st Armoured Division. When the Queen passed to the other side of the road, several Diggers slapped him on the back and congratulated him as he stood "almost bewildered".

The Duke, meantime, noted that another Kiama Digger, Mr Frank King, was holding his son. The Duke grinned and said, "Bit small for an ex-serviceman, isn't he?"

Members of the Kiama Municipal Band struck up "Soldiers of the Queen" as HRH walked along the street. She and the Duke then adjourned to the Soldiers' Hall for lunch where five Kiama ladies were included in the ranks of those waiting on the royal party and 450 local dignitaries. The ladies were Winifred Brooks, Jean Miller, Margaret Somerville, Mavis Manning and Joan Roberts.

Next stop was Wollongong Showground where 14,000 children awaited a glimpse of their monarch.



Queen Elizabeth II.

"Along the crowded route to the Showground went the royal car - cheered all the way, past decorated private homes and hundreds of young children waving flags to where the biggest welcome of the day awaited them." As Queen Elizabeth mounted the dais of the Showground, she looked out over a sea of faces waving red, white and blue streamers and "swallowed once of twice" amid "a most moving scene".

What the Queen Wore

A royal visit would not be complete without a description of the royal attire which included: "A teal blue shantung Princess style coat, three-quarter length sleeves with matching dress. Black gloves, black shoes and handbag, a matching teal blue roughened straw hat set with black velvet bow. The Queen also wore three strands of pearls and a large, jewel-encrusted brooch in her lapel."

The Queen's Address

"I thank you sincerely for the welcome that you have given us for the citizens of Wollongong. I was greatly touched by the message you gave me from the children of your city and I am delighted that I shall have the opportunity of seeing and speaking to them this afternoon. I am very glad that I was able to come to this city because I have heard much of the notable part it is playing in the growth of Australia's industrial strength. Now that I have seen it for myself, I realise how proud you all must be of what has been achieved. I only wish that I could stay longer and see more of the men and women who have created it. I wish too that I had been able on this occasion to visit many of the other towns along the South Coast of New South Wales. To them, and to all, I send my best wishes for the future."



Kiama's royalty, Mayor, Ald Ray Walker and Mayoress Mrs Martha Walker, meet Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh during their visit to Wollongong in February, 1954. Photo: Walker/Kates Family Collection.

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1956 Melbourne Olympics

The first Olympics held on Australian soil was staged in November/December of 1956, and while the Kiama district did not play so prominent a role in the lead-up as the Sydney 2000 Olympics, it still got a mention.

The torch relay created interest when 16-year-old Kevin Carson, of Kiama, carried the torch for a mile-long stretch at Mittagong on its journey south in the early hours of Monday morning, November 19, 1956. Kevin completed the fastest mile in the section, before the relay terminated in Melbourne.

A contingent of local townsfolk was there to witness the event with "several cars carrying Kiama residents travelling to Mittagong in the early hours of Monday morning".

Meantime, on November 15, 1956, a farewell dance was held in the Kiama Drill Hall for ten members of Kiama Surf Club who were to compete in the Australian and International Surf Championships. The competition was to be held at Torquay, Victoria, from November 25 to December 2, in conjunction with the Olympics.

The team members were: boat crew - Captain and sweep, Dallas Tidmarsh; Vice-captain and second stroke, Bill Buckley; stroke, Trevell Best; bow, Bruce Piggott; second bow, Noel Boyce; spare oarsman and ski rider, Don Meredith; ski riders, John McAuliffe and Ross Carson; swimmer, Fred Moss; and beach sprinter, Brian Alexander.

The Kiama Independent said that despite the keen competition from overseas, the finals would be contested by "some good Australian teams". Responding, Club secretary, John McAuliffe, said that every member of the team considered it a great privilege to represent Kiama.

Mr Trevell Best, 71, fondly recalled

his trip to the championships, including the farewell dance. "Neil Hindmarsh was the Mayor; wished us all well and told us 'Now remember, you're not only going down to represent yourself, but as a representative of the township of Kiama'. I'll never forget that," Mr Best said.

Instilled with this sense of responsibility, Mr Best - as the only married member of a group of single young men - took the lead, ensuring the entourage of three cars, including a 16-year-old Chevrolet, a surf boat and three caravans, made it to Torquay in one piece. After a parting photograph in their spiffy new surf club blazers, the team hit the high road to adventure.

The boys camped on a reserve at Torquay, spending much of their time competing and the remainder trying to get into the city to watch the Olympic events. Mr Best said that 1956 Games bore little resemblance to the recent 2000 Olympics extravaganza. "There was no opening spectacular. You have to understand, we had just come out of a war and Australia was still doing it a bit tough. There was a march of athletes but there was no waving and cheering or people doing Catherine wheels - they came out marching in military fashion. Prince Phillip said a few words, some pigeons were released and then Ron Clarke came in to light the Olympic cauldron."

And the highlight of the once-in-a-lifetime trip? "A party at the Torquay Hotel - we had a ball," Mr Best said. "Oh, and I went to Myer to buy my wife, Val, one of those new nylon nighties." (Mrs Best was present at this interview.)

At the end of the day, the team did not return home with any medals, but they were toe-top-full of stories and fond memories from the trip.

Meantime, the Independent's 'offi-



Members of the Kiama Surf Life Saving Club team who represented at the Olympics were pictured proudly displaying their club blazers before departure. They are (back, from left) Trevell Best, Noel Boyce, Bill Buckley, Dallas Tidmarsh, (front) Brian Alexander, Bruce Piggott and Fred Moss. Absent from picture are Don Meredith, John McAuliffe and Ross Carson. Photo: Best Family Collection.

cial' correspondent to the Games, Mr Noel Cantrill, reported back on the historic opening ceremony.

"Like the Greeks of 776BC, we proceeded on our way, and on Wednesday evening, November 21, with our 29 horses strongly tugging at our chariot, we found our caravan park at Coburg. And indeed the journey was worth it. Melbourne had gone gay. It was beflagged and decorated...Coles' main store in Bourke Street had a large mural on its

front...We saw HRH The Duke of Edinburgh at close quarters on his way to the Town Hall and again when he entered the main stadium to declare open the XVI Olympiad. It was an inspiring day, that Thursday, November 22. To see each national team of athletes make its entry, parade and line up side by side to the marching music of massed bands was an occasion to be remembered...The TV description was good, but it lacked one thing which made

the actual scene so spectacular - colour...A beautiful goddess in the Colombian team, who marched in high healed shoes all the way without a falter, aroused voluble admiration from every male in the stadium...The arrival of the torch was another inspiring sight. Unfortunately we missed the climax, the lighting of the cauldron which was directly overhead, with a roof blocking our view."

Kiama Independent December 5, 1956



The Olympic stadium at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in 1956.



Large crowds attended Torquay, Victoria, for the International championships.

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Apex, Rotary, CWA

Younger Set

The Gerringong Younger Set was in operation by December 1950, the group's social activities ranging from debates and mock trials to square dancing and games nights. The club was split into two teams which would compete against each other - "The Kangaroos", led by Mary Johnston and Colin Sharpe, and "The Emus", led by Betty Watson and John Love.

At the organisation's annual meeting in 1951, it was revealed that 11 meetings had been held in the Gerringong Town Hall over the past year, the average attendance being 20 members. Mr L O'Dempsey was President; Secretary, Winsome Burgess; Treasurer, Fay Jones; Senior Vice-president, Aub Emery; Junior Vice-president, Ken Miller; Assistant Secretary, David Whalan; and Social Secretary, Mary Johnston.

Kiama CWA

In September, 1950, the Kiama branch of the Country Women's Association announced its intention to buy Mrs J Harris' property, *Dalmeny*, in Shoalhaven Street, Kiama, in conjunction with the South Western Group and Wollondilly Group of the CWA.

The plan was to provide holiday accommodation for members of the CWA and to house the Kiama branch activities. The bottom floor was reserved for the Baby Health Centre.

After buying *Dalmeny*, a former doctor's residence, the group intended to build additions to provide a meeting room but instead opted to build a separate building at the rear. The CWA's new rest rooms in Shoalhaven Street, Kiama, were officially opened in March, 1953, by the State President of the CWA. The building measured 53ft x 20ft and included a well-equipped, 10ft x 20ft kitchen.

Kiama Rotary Club

Kiama Rotary Club was established on March 24, 1952, the charter being presented by District Governor of Rotary International, Mr AL Rigby, at a dinner held in the Oddfellows' Hall on July 19, 1952. Foundation President was Dr Bruce Stephen, while Mr DD Fraser was appointed Secretary and Mr WH Trethowan Treasurer.

The club's major fundraising initiative for 1952 was the Kiama Scout Group and, in October, it launched a collection of "junk" to raise funds for the construction of the Kiama Scout Hall. The club sought scrap iron and steel and other metal, old bedsteads, unwanted furniture and bags, bricks, bottles and timber which would be later sold at auction. Orders for sand, soil, quarry dust, manure and firewood were also being taken.

Kiama Apex Club

The first dinner meeting of the "proposed" Kiama Apex Club was held at the Brighton Hotel on March 19, 1955. The club was being sponsored by the Port Kembla Apex Club whose President, Mr EH Wallis, welcomed 25 young men from Kiama to the meeting. Visiting Apexians from Wollongong, Port Kembla and Nowra swelled the numbers to 52 and helped introduce the "prospexians" to their first dinner meeting.

Guest speaker was Mr J Facey, Secretary of the Oyster Farming Association, who provided a "most instructive and interesting" talk on oysters. A highlight of the evening was a practical



The 'school flat' when it doubled as a camping ground during the school holidays. Note the glorious views of Kiama Harbour and the blue metal hoppers. Photos: Kates/Walker Family Collection.



Holiday-goers flock to the entrance of Minnamurra River for a program of beach activities during Christmas, 1956.

demonstration on oyster opening by Mr Percy Mahoney, a North Coast oyster farmer. His technique was expected to "speed up the oyster from the shell to the plate and save many cut hands".

Mr Mahoney kindly donated half a bag of oysters for sale to members, the proceeds assisting with a Flood Victims' Appeal. "An enjoyable night was had by all and the fellowship and enthusiasm of the meeting should give this new club a good start in making a name for itself in the Association of Apex Clubs" (KI.23.55).

At the inaugural dinner, which was attended by 114 Apexians, Mr Jim Pearce was elected foundation President, Secretary, Mr Cecil Allen, and Treasurer, Mr Alan Rodriguez.

The club was on the job in May, 1955, when it conducted a clean-up of the grounds of the Kiama Public School in response to a news item which revealed the poor state of the playground. An "uneven wilderness covered with heaps of earth and dead trees" was levelled by members into what was expected to soon become "a nice lawn".

As part of the work, a crane and truck were

brought in to remove three coral trees. Flower beds were dug along the path from the main gate to the school while a load of manure was brought in and the beds were prepared for planting. Three-foot high grass growing outside the fence on the footpath was cut so that children could use it instead of walking along the roadway.

Apex Charter

The club did not receive its charter until March 10, 1956, when the presentation was made before a gathering of 250 Kiama and visiting Apexians. The weekend celebration also marked the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the Association.

A cocktail party launched the evening in the Oddfellows Hall before Zone President, Mr David Rees, presented the charter to Kiama Club President, Mr Pearce.

The Associated Apex Clubs of Australia owed its origin to three men who got together over lunch in 1930 to discuss the idea of forming a young men's business club. Those men were the Association's recognised founders, Messrs Ewen Laird, Langham Proud and John Buchan. A

board of 12 was formed and a meeting was held at Geelong, Victoria, on December 3, 1930, at which 60 men were present. It was not until March 10, 1931, though, that the constitution was drawn up and the name Apex was chosen - it representing "the height of ambition".

Learn To Swim

A vacation swimming school was launched in Kiama by the Department of Education in January, 1958.

The 10-day school was part of a state-wide scheme in which thousands of non-swimmers were expected to participate, in 80 country pools and 27 Sydney Metropolitan Centres.

For a fee of 10 shillings, all children aged eight years and over were eligible to attend the course, which was being instructed by Mr F Johnson, a teacher at the Wollongong Technical School.

~ Church Destroyed, Parsonage Built ~

Church Destroyed

The historic, 74-year-old St James Church of England at Foxground was destroyed by fire on the evening of October 9, 1954. By the next morning, all that remained was the sandstone foundations, a heap of ashes and twisted iron.

The fire was first noticed at 5.45pm but residents could do nothing but stand and watch the building burn to the ground. It was uncertain how the church caught on fire, but two small boys were seen playing in the churchyard only minutes before the blaze started.

"Mr Austen Hahm was first there and opened the main door at the western end of the Church, but was met with a wall of flame and smoke. The fire had apparently started in the vestry of the church at the eastern end, where kerosene for the lamps and the hymn books were kept. It soon spread and the whole building became a raging inferno."

Kiama Independent
October 13, 1954

Methodist Parsonage

The official opening and dedication of the Kiama Methodist parsonage was held on March 26, 1955.

Heavy rains that morning had "turned the grounds into a swamp", forcing the opening ceremony into the church, but it did not deter a large gathering from being in attendance.

Deputy Mayor, Ald R Weir, said Kiama Municipal Council was pleased to join the Methodist people in such a happy occasion, "the culmination of a long endeavour, and the setting of a milestone in the history of the church".

He added that the "God-given beauty of the town had been enhanced by the beautiful parsonage now being opened".

The Circuit Minister, Rev RJ Cashin, said that the parsonage cost £5900 to construct, the bill being partly funded by £4320 from the sales of property, including the old parsonage, and £755 from donations.

This left a total estimated debt of £826.

New Presbyterian Manse

A new Kiama Presbyterian manse was opened at the corner of Shoalhaven and Bong Bong Streets, Kiama, on July 25, 1959. The service was conducted by Rev JE Davies, of Woonona, while the opening was performed by Rev Hector Harrison, OBE, Minister of St Andrews Church, Canberra.

The manse was "an attractive brick veneer building of eight rooms, the outstanding feature of which is the magnificent view available from the front windows". It replaced the previous manse which was 105 years old.

Rev Harrison said that the Presbyterian Church in NSW was beginning to realise that "if their ministers were to give of their best, suitable and comfortable manses had to be provided".

He said that, currently, there was a large number of such buildings in the course of construction. He added that, although it was "nice from a historical view to live in a manse 105 years old, it was much better to live in a modern home".

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Soroptimists, Boys' Club

Soroptimist Club

The Kiama Soroptimist Club received its charter at a dinner held in the Brighton Hotel on April 14, 1956. The club was similar in its ideals to the Rotary and Apex Clubs, only it comprised of the businesswomen of the town and district. Of the 20 Soroptimist clubs in NSW, 16 were represented at the dinner, at which 158 people were present.

The proceedings were begun with the Loyal Toast, followed by a toast to the Kiama Municipality by Mrs Betty Abbott. Mr Harold Lyons, President of the Kiama Rotary Club, brought congratulations from his club and also proposed the toast of the Soroptimist International Association.

Mrs Dorothy Hardwicke, President of the NSW Divisional Union, said that "history has shown what one good woman working alone had been able to do" and posed "how much more could an international association of women achieve?" She said that Soroptimism was non-sectarian and non-political.

Mrs Hardwicke said that Soroptimism had started in 1921 in the United States to give women the chance to widen their outlook and circle of friends. It had since spread to 21 countries, including Australia, which was currently part of the Federation of Great Britain and Ireland Soroptimists. Club projects included help for the aged, hospital furnishings, young and delinquent children, the blind and handicapped children.

Club President, Mrs Kath Brown (Kiama's first female alderman), accepted the charter saying that it would be their "most treasured possession". She was then presented with the Presidential Badge. Member's badges were then presented to: Vice-presidents Mrs Betty Abbott (social worker), and Miss Win Drylie (Hospital Matron); Secretary Mrs Clarice Keir (grocery store proprietress); and Treasurer Mrs Joan Grey (farming).

Other badges were presented to: Mrs Joyce Atkin (proprietress, frock salon), Mrs Daisy Chittick (Kiama Mayoress), Mrs Bessie Haigh (drapery proprietress), Mrs Joan Mathieson (bakery proprietress), Mrs Joan Meiklejohn (pharmaceutical secretary), Mrs Grace Mitchell (transport service), Miss Julie Moore (guest house proprietress), Dr Bettine O'Dea (medical practitioner), Mrs Dinah Patton (music teacher), Mrs Audrey Suckling (pastry cook), Mrs Madeline Sullivan (dress-maker), and Mrs Vera Wilson (gift store proprietress).

At the club's first annual meeting held in April, 1957, it was announced that two worthwhile donations of equipment had been made to the Kiama District Hospital in the past 12 months. These were a donation of £300 for 28 new bedside lockers for every bed in the general section of the hospital, and £130 for two electric urns, a stainless steel drainer and a sink surround for the operating theatre.

The club's first birthday celebrations followed in September, 1957, when Kiama Town Clerk, Mr Lyons, thanked the club for providing morning tea at the municipal naturalisation ceremonies which gave "new citizens the chance to mix with old residents". Club President, Mrs Joan Grey, blew out the candle and then cut the birthday cake which had been made by Mrs Keir and was iced by Mrs Suckling.

Kiama Boys' Club

The Kiama Boys Club was opened in the Kiama Showground Pavilion on November 18, 1957, with more than 200 local lads in attendance who watched demonstrations of judo, boxing and other forms of physical training provided by the Wollongong Police Boys Club. The Club jazz band was also in attendance to render various musical items.

President-superintendent of the Kiama Club, Constable R McKellar, said that while the organisation was not a police boys club, it had received great support from the Sydney Police Boys Headquarters and would operate along similar lines. Membership was open to boys aged nine to 16 years and operated every Monday and Wednesday evenings.

"As soon as the doors were open boys of all sizes swept down on the equipment and were soon punching at bags, trying on boxing gloves, shaping up to each other, shinning up and down ropes and testing their strength on the weight lifting equipment."

Kiama Independent
November 20, 1957

Kiama Mayor, Ald Chittick, congratulated Constable McKellar and his committee on the club saying that there had been a great need for such an organisation in the area. He

added that Constable McKellar was "carrying out the work in his own time" and asked the community to give their utmost support.

At the club's annual meeting, held in October, 1958, it was revealed that assets worth £353 had been acquired while membership totalled 183. In his report, Constable McKellar said that the first year had been "momentous", due largely to the generous public support and the enthusiasm shown by the boys. The committee's application to have the club registered as a charity under the terms of the Charitable Collections Act, meantime, had been granted. Constable McKellar said that, during the year, the boys had received instruction in judo, wrestling, gymnastics, weight lifting, table tennis, shuttlecock, billiards, darts, quoits and volley ball. Also, a team was started in the Group 7 Junior Rugby League under 13 years competition, which reached the semi-finals.

For the election of officers, Mr K Graham was elected Secretary, Mr M Ducker Treasurer, and committee members Messrs V Nye, WS Smith, A Lyle, W Johnston, T Wilson, W Geurts, E Churchill, K Maguire, E Scott and P Hall.

Kiama Alpine Club

The Kiama Alpine Club was established on May 28, 1958, at the instigation of Kiama veterinarian, Mr Eugene Baranowsky, and his wife Lala. It followed the release of 67 acres by the Kosciusko State Park Trust in 1957 for the development of a ski village in the Thredbo Valley. The Baranowskys saw the advantage of leasing a block and building a lodge with their friends as a base for skiing holidays.

The couple, accompanied by Mr Tony Sponar, journeyed to Thredbo where they chose a 12,254 square foot block which enjoyed magnificent views across Thredbo River. A deposit of £50 was placed on the site before the trio returned home to generate support from the wider community of Kiama.

Their task was aided by Keith Young, the owner of a farm produce firm, and Kiama tax accountant, Darcy Fraser, and between them they rallied the support of a network of farmers and businessmen in the venture.

Other members included farmers John Fraser, Geoff Honey, John East and Dick Wilson, Brighton Hotel Publican Harry Brown, solicitor Frank Kearns, delivery firm owner Allan Norman, Commonwealth Bank Manager Bill Trethowan and veterinarians George Borys and Janice Grinbergs.



Members of the Kiama Soroptimists are pictured at a gathering in the late 1950s. They are (from back, left to right) Mesdames Con Robins, Pauline Nulty, Verne Gibson, Ellen Carson, Felicity Bailey, Joan Pearce, Betty Abbott, unknown, Clarice Keir, Betty Porritt, unknown, Muriel Crane, Joan Grey and Julie Moore.

The club was formed at a meeting held at the Brighton Hotel while a follow-up meeting was held on June 4 to adopt a constitution and elect officers for the ensuing year. Elected President was Mr Keith Young; Secretary Mr Darcy Fraser; Treasurer Mr Bill Threthowan; Captain Mr Eugene Baranowsky; Trustees Messrs Frank Kearns, Dick Wilson and Eugene Baranowsky; together with a committee of seven who would control the club.

Thirty five members were also present, not including wives or families, and it was proposed to limit the club to 50 as it was considered the proposed club hut could not provide for the needs of more than this number. At a meeting held two months later, however, it was found that a membership of not less than 120 was necessary to run the club.

Once word got out about the club, applications to join from as far away as Sydney and Canberra. "This is because accommodation on the snowfields is at such a premium that the

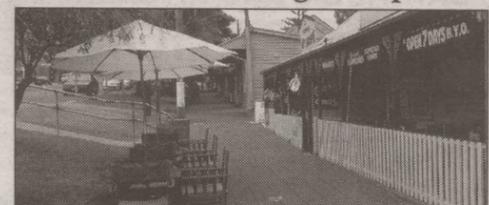
only way to obtain accommodation is through a ski club" (KI 7.2.59).

By February, 1959, membership had reached 60 and the club had decided to allow some of the skilled skiers to join so that "they will be able to help those less skilled". The club expected to provide accommodation at one third the tariff being charged by established hostels in the region.

Over the ensuing 12 months, an intensive work program was begun. Sydney architects Fowell, Mansfield and Maclurcan designed the plans, while the £7000 tender of the Architon Construction Company was accepted to build the lodge.

The building project was completed on the eve of the club's first anniversary in May, 1959. Built on concrete foundations, the timber two-storey building included a living and dining area, toilets, showers and five bunkrooms. A balcony spanned the width of the building.

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Municipal Amalgamation

After a proposal to amalgamate Kiama, Jamberoo, Gerringong and Shellharbour Councils was defeated in June, 1949, it having been opposed by all but Kiama Council, the idea was shelved. This was until 1953 when the Department of Local Government submitted the proposal for an "all-purpose Council for Gerringong, Kiama and Jamberoo".

This time, Kiama and Gerringong agreed to amalgamate, but Jamberoo was undecided. The decision by Kiama and Gerringong was made in preference to a proposed "County Council" which would control electricity in the three areas. The idea was rejected on the grounds that it would add to the cost of administration and capital expenditure while placing added strain on elected representatives.

At a meeting held to discuss the plan, Ald MN Hindmarsh said that, in essence, "all the factors pointed to an inevitable union of the district" and that it would "be wiser to ask for amalgamation now rather than wait until it was brought about by economic pressure".

Ald HE Cooke (Gerringong) recommended that the meeting formally reject the County Council proposal and indicate to the Minister that the three local councils were prepared to amalgamate. This was on the proviso that three wards would be formed to the present boundaries, with five representatives from each.

A change in the agreed conditions over voting rights, however, prompted Jamberoo Council to withdraw its support for amalgamation. But the Minister for Local Government, Mr JB Renshaw, was unmoved by the stand, his notice of the proposed amalgamation being published in the *Government Gazette* in February, 1954. Objections to the union were to be submitted by March 26, 1954.

Jamberoo was left in a quandary - it could either fight the decision through the courts, or save the ratepayers' money and concede defeat. Within days, Jamberoo reluctantly withdrew its objection.

Amalgamation was officially proclaimed on June 2, 1954, and later gazetted on June 11, 1954. The decision effectively restored the district (with the exception of Broughton Vale which was "swallowed" by the Shoalhaven Shire) to that which was originally proclaimed in 1859, almost a century earlier.

The future direction of the municipality over the next two-and-a-half years was to be guided by a provisional council consisting of five aldermen from each of the former councils. These were: Kiama - Aldermen Ray Walker, R Weir, AN Hindmarsh, HD Wilson and RM Wilson. Gerringong - Aldermen Gus Chittick, GA Weir, HE Cooke, JB Devery and L Watson. Jamberoo - Aldermen EJ Swan, R Tate, FC Abbott, HC Alexander and CR Chittick.

The ink was barely dry on the gazettal when discord occurred over the Minister for Local Government's decision to name the district "Municipality of Kiama" - a name which was to take effect on July 1, 1954.

"Kiama" was a disappointing choice for members of Gerringong and Jamberoo Councils who had hoped that "Municipality of Southern Illawarra" would be chosen. But Jamberoo Deputy Mayor, Ald EJ Swan, who suggested the name, said that while he believed the Government would take up his



Pictured at a social function during the 1950s are (from left) Kiama Mayoress, Mrs Martha Walker, Mrs Lyons, Kiama Town Clerk Mr Harold Lyons, Mr Ern Palin and Mrs Palin.
Photo: Kates/Walker Family Collection.

idea, "the name doesn't really matter when it is all boiled down, it is the attitude of the men who sit round the table that matters". "We have just got to sink all these parochial difference and work as one municipality".

Kiama Mayor, Ald Ray Walker, concurred. "The Minister has chosen the title of Kiama...following the customary practice in these cases of using the name of the largest centre," Ald Walker said. "What is vital to us is that the 15 men should sit down in a spirit of harmony and devotion to the whole area."

Gus Chittick is New Mayor

The first meeting of the new Kiama Provisional Council was held on June 24, 1954, when outgoing Gerringong Mayor, Ald Gus Chittick, was elected the new Kiama Mayor over Ald HE Cooke, also of Gerringong and a former mayor.

Outgoing Kiama - Town Clerk, Mr Harold Lyons, was appointed the new Town Clerk, after a ballot was taken in which the officers of the three uniting areas were voted for. Three nominations were made for Deputy Mayor - Ald RW Weir (Kiama), Ald Ray Walker (Kiama), and Ald EH Swan (Jamberoo). Aldermen Walker and Swan declined nomination and Ald Weir was automatically elected.

The meeting was opened by the Under-Secretary for Local Government, Mr S Haviland, who said that "this day was an historic one in Local Government on which much depended, and which could easily be marred...If you can lift yourselves above personal prejudices and jealousies and work for the whole of the new area then you can go on to success."

He said that the union, which had been handled on both a ministerial and local level, was "unique in the history of Local Government in this State".

He added that it was important the new council avoided mistakes "from which they might never recover as a Local Government body".

Ald Chittick was mindful of the duties he had accepted. "I hope there will be no groups in our new Council," he said, "and that we all work together in harmony as we are now. We have a district in which we can really be proud and we must not fail in our duty to the people."

Nine Aldermen

In May, 1956, the Under Secretary to the Department of Local Government announced that only nine aldermen could be elected to the newly-constituted Kiama Municipal Council when the elections were held in December, later that year. This replaced the 15 aldermen currently serving on the Provisional Council. The method of election would be by proportional representation.

Council had originally asked that 12 aldermen comprise the council, but nine elected representatives were regarded by the Government as sufficient.

First Election

The first Local Government election since the Kiama amalgamation was held on Saturday, December 1, 1956, when 20 candidates contested nine seats.

Leader of the Australian Labor Party team at Kiama, Mr Russell Smith, topped the poll with 525 first preference votes while retiring Mayor, Ald Gus Chittick, finished second with 283 votes.

Elected were: Messrs RR Smith, GE Chittick, RF Broadby, AN Hindmarsh, HE Cooke, LW Watson, EJ Swan, FC Abbott and FJ Pearce. In being elected to council, Ald Smith told the *Independent* that he and Ald Broadby, as Labor co-horts, would make regular visits "to every part of the municipality".

While Ald Smith topped the poll, Ald Chittick was returned to the Mayor's chair after being elected unopposed. Ald AN Hindmarsh was elected unopposed as Deputy Mayor. The Mayoral allowance, meantime, was set at £208, to be paid quarterly.

County Council

While the municipalities of Kiama, Gerringong and Jamberoo opted to amalgamate as opposed to being established as a combined County Council, the State Electricity Commission did not rest the proposal.

In December, 1956, in the midst of Kiama's first Local Government election held since amalgamation, the Commission met to discuss the union of Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama and the Shoalhaven Councils to control electricity on the South Coast.

A Wollongong representative argued that the electricity rates supplied by Wollongong

Council were lower than those being put forward by the proposed County Council. Readers were assured that the discussions were "only tentative", however, and no definite decisions would be made.

The Commission's intention was made more apparent the following March when a conference was held to discuss the amalgamation of the South Coast Councils with Berrima County Council.

Representatives of the respective councils voiced their unanimous protest, some threatening to hold referendums to determine the public's feeling on the matter. Regardless, plans to establish an "Illawarra County Council" were proceeded with, the representative councils being given one month to appeal the decision.

The Council was formed by the new year of 1958 and, much to the disgust of local aldermen, Kiama Council was forced into the County. This was despite a commitment by the Government that Kiama would be given five years to settle as a newly-amalgamated council before having to contend with the additional duties as a member of the County Council.

At a special meeting held to elect a delegate to the newly formed Council, Kiama Mayor Ald Chittick and Ald Cooke voiced their concern, accusing both the Premier and the Minister for Local Government of a breach of faith.

Ald Cooke, who was appointed as the delegate, said that "It is most regrettable that Her Majesty's Ministers cannot keep their word. They have committed a breach of faith, trust and, above all, honesty". He also questioned why Kiama and Shellharbour had been grouped with Wollongong when they had "no interest in common".

George Grey MBE

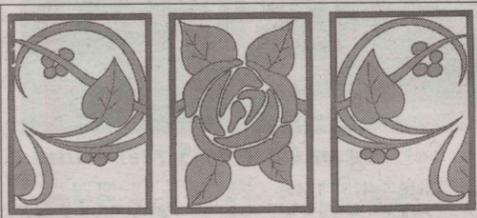
Queen Elizabeth's first Birthday Honours List in June, 1952, included Mr George Edward Archibald Grey, of Victoria and formerly of Kiama, who was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire for his services to the dairying industry.

The *Independent* said that the award could be taken as "recognition of the importance of Australia's own breed of dairy cattle, the Australia Illawarra Shorthorn". Mr Grey was an outstanding breeder of this type of cattle and at the annual meeting of the AIS Society, held during the 1933 Sydney Show, the position of Patron was created so that the Society could suitably honour him.

Mr Grey established the *Greyleigh* herd in 1886 and had considerable success in the showing of cattle for the next 50 years throughout Australia. His cows had won the championships at all of these shows and for as many as three times in succession.

For 25 years he was a member of the Board of the Dairy Farmers Milk Company and was, for over 40 years, a member of the Kiama A and H Society. Mr Grey was nominated for the prestigious MBE by a contingent of Kiama residents.

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Tractor Accident, Polio

Tractor Accident

In October, 1954, well-known Kiama farmer, Mr Ozzie Alexander, was run over by his own tractor. Mr Alexander was driving the tractor when he was thrown from his seat, the wheel of the vehicle passing over his chest, causing serious injury. He suffered several broken ribs, one of which punctured a lung.

Polio Vaccinations

Vaccinations for poliomyelitis were first administered in Kiama on October

16, 1956, when a limited quantity of vaccine was made available to the municipality. It was all part of a Government campaign to have the nation's children vaccinated against the crippling disease. Enough supplies of the vaccine arrived to treat 600 children while further supplies had been promised for the early part of 1957.

Using the available serum which was supplied at two shillings per treatment, preference was given to preschool-aged children.

Bowling Clubs

Jamberoo Bowling Club

Jamberoo Bowling Club was established on July 12, 1950. The club was formed to take advantage of a NSW Government offer of £500 on a pound for pound basis for the construction of a bowling green on the Jamberoo Recreation Ground.

Some 40 of those present indicated their intention to become members of the club, the following being elected office-bearers:-

Patron, Mr HT Fowles, MLA; President Mr C Jones; Vice-presidents, Messrs RC Warby (Senior), and WH Richardson (Junior); Secretary Mr J Murphy; Treasurer Mr N Parker, Assistant Mr W Boxsell; Committee, Messrs H Low, J Love, H Cooper, S Smee, W Richardson and AL Fredericks.

The Jamberoo Bowling Green was officially opened on November 20, 1954, the ceremony beginning with a welcome by Jamberoo Club President, Mr Jack Love.

The green was opened by South Coast Bowling Association President, Mr TR Batty, of Kiama, who bowled the first bowl which came to rest touching the kitty.

"Mr Batty said that a bowling green in any town was an asset. He said that it not only provided recreation, but also gave an opportunity to its members to form many friendships they would not otherwise make. He complimented the Jamberoo Club on producing such a good green which was a credit to the President, officers and members."

Kiama Independent
November 27, 1954

Mr Batty then asked Mrs Love, President of the Ladies Auxiliary, to throw the jack into position and then he sent down the first bowl, saying that he hoped that the members, their children and their grandchildren would enjoy "many happy games on the green."

Mr Howard Fowles MLA, who had assisted the club in gaining its start-up grant, then unfurled the Club's pennant on the flagpole. He said that the formation of a bowling club had been talked about for many years in Jamberoo and it was pleasing to see "that the older residents who were unable to play football and cricket were being catered for with recreation". Games were then arranged between the visiting bowlers, representing most clubs in the South Coast and Illawarra Associations, and the Jamberoo Club.

Mr Batty said that the South Coast Bowling Association was the youngest in NSW and had been formed because the growth of bowls had made it necessary to subdivide the old South Coast Association in two. "Ten years ago, 23,000 people played bowls. Now there are 52,000 bowlers and 221 clubs in country areas," Mr Batty said.

"The time is coming when the ladies will have to be taken into the clubs," he added, while issuing hopes that clubs would consider "giving over one day a week to the ladies". He then presented the club with a "beautiful framed picture of the Queen".

The ladies club was indeed formed by the opening of the new clubhouse in March, 1956.

New Clubhouse

The Club celebrated the opening of "a delightful and modern clubhouse" on March 11, 1956. The opening was performed by President of the Royal NSW Bowling Association, Mr H Richardson, who expressed hope that the building would serve "not only as a meeting place, but as a place of assembly for the enjoyment of amenities and social intercourse".

"The clubroom is a most striking erection with adequate accommodation for both lady and gentlemen bowlers. The main hall is 40 x 30ft and the pastel-toned walls in yellow, green and grey are topped by an acoustic ceiling. The interior is illuminated by neon tubes and featured are two large, glass sliding doors and a 6 x 4 glass window which allows an excellent view of the surrounding countryside...Mr John Murphy, in proposing a toast to the Jamberoo ladies' Bowling Club, said it was through the assistance of the ladies that they had been able to present such an excellent function."

Kiama Independent
March 14, 1956

Kiama Bowling Club

On March 10, 1956, Kiama Bowling Club unveiled special gates in memory of the late Mr Nesbitt Hindmarsh, "a fine bowler and administrator and splendid citizen" (KI 14.3.56).

The unveiling was carried out by President of the South Coast District Bowling



The Jamberoo Bowling Club clubhouse is officially opened by Mr H Richardson on March 11, 1956.

Association, Mr Reg Batty, who said that Mr Hindmarsh had "always been known as 'Nessie' in his club and by all bowlers on the South Coast and Southern Highlands."

Mr Hindmarsh had been instrumental in the formation of the club and was Club President from 1926 to 1933 and again from 1935 to 1946. "During his terms of office he was a tower of strength to the club," Mr Batty said. "His sound judgement and kindly advice given in a most unassuming manner made for him many friends," he added.

In the game of bowls, he was also "one of the most consistent good players and for over 20 years was an 'A' Pennant skipper".

The day also included the opening of a recently completed green by Mr Richardson.

Clubhouse Opening

Celebration of the official opening of the Kiama Bowling Club clubhouse was held on the weekend of December 5-7, 1958. The festivities began with a social and dance on the Friday evening, followed by a concert on Saturday and an all-day bowls tournament on the Sunday.

The opening was performed by President of the Royal NSW Bowling Association, Mr Tom Shakespeare. A feature was the presentation of Veterans' Badges to two foundation members, Messrs John Cope, the oldest member, and Mr John E King, who was elected Provisional Secretary at the inaugural meeting in March 1919.

Mr Shakespeare said that bowls was "a truly amateur game and its main advantage was that it could be played by the maimed and even the blind, but was still such a scientific game that no-one could say they had mastered it."

Presentations of mementos were made to Mesdames K Jarratt, Batty, Dennerley, Swan, Haug and S Jarratt while Association badges were presented to Kiama Mayor, Ald Gus Chittick and Club publicity officer M Snelling.

Kiama Women's Bowling Club

More than 100 members of the South Coast District Women's Bowling Association attended the official opening of Kiama Women's Bowling Club on November 20, 1956.

The club, which was formed three years earlier in 1953, was declared 'open' by President of the Association, Mrs V Howard, after she delivered the first bowl to the jack which was rolled by Kiama Club President, Mrs R Swan.

All those present then competed in a 'spider' and competition play commenced between 15 clubs including Kiama, Jamberoo, Thirroul and Bowral.

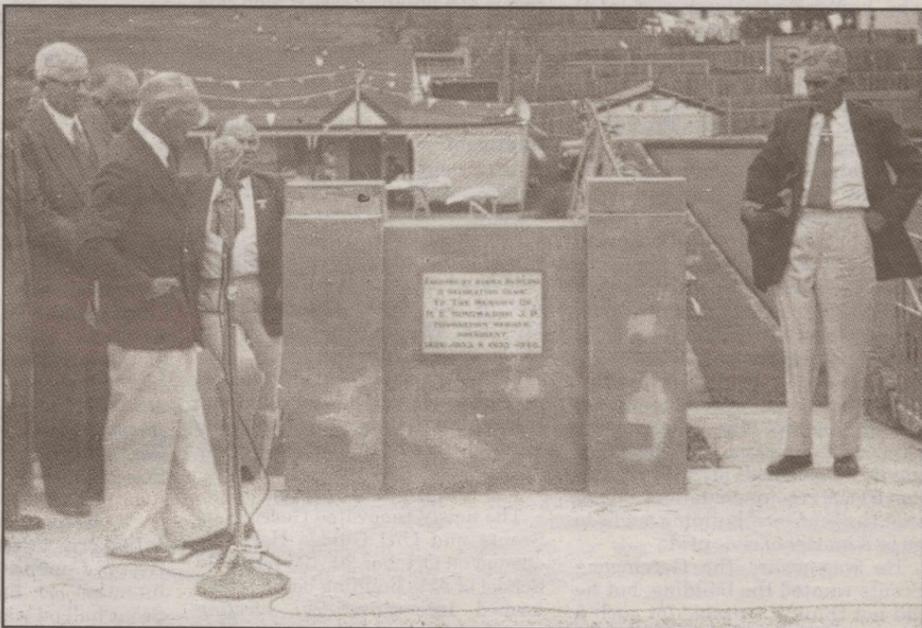
Gerringong Bowling Club

The first meeting of the Gerringong Bowling Club as held in the Town Hall on August 19, 1959.

During the meeting "a very generous gesture" was made by the Gerringong Golf Club of a gift of land to enable the establishment of two greens and a clubhouse.

Foundation officer bearers elected were:

President Mr JB Devery; Vice-presidents Messrs J Cox and A Medenis; Secretary Mr T Carradus; Treasurer Mr G Drury; Bowls Secretary Mr G Heinrich; and Management Committee Messrs V Noble, H Pearson, S Sharpe, A Sparkes, F Chard, B Parkhill, C Firkin, C Masson and E Jamieson. At the close of the meeting, 45 citizens became registered members of the club.



President of the South Coast District Bowling Association, Mr Reg Batty, unveils a memorial to the late Mr Nesbitt Hindmarsh at Kiama Bowling Club on March 10, 1956.



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INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Scouts & Guides

Gerringong Scouts

The Gerringong Scout Troop committee was formed at a meeting in the Town Hall on March 8, 1951. Mr AM Trevallion was elected foundation President, while Mr Weatherall was appointed foundation Group Scoutmaster and Mrs Klem Cub Master.

At the first annual meeting held in the Memorial Hall, on March 30, 1952, Mr Trevallion, praised the work of Mr Weatherall who had resigned because his work was no longer at Gerringong.

Permanent club rooms were still being sought, Mr J Cleary allowing free use of the School of Arts building in the interim. Officers elected for the coming year were: President Mr AM Trevallion; Vice-presidents Messrs RK Jones and NS Sharpe; Secretary Mr VB Ball; Treasurer Mr T Jones; Auditors Messrs DB Hunter and BC Miller; Executive Committee Messrs AM Trevallion, RK Jones, NS Sharpe, VB Ball, T Jones and AW Noble.

Gerringong Guides

The first meeting to establish the Gerringong Girl Guides was held on October 16, 1951, when Mrs Jones and Miss Marla Campbell, and Mrs Bailey and Miss Elaine Graham, undertook the task of forming the Guide Company and Brownie Pack respectively.

The first Guide recruits were enrolled in April, 1952, in the School of Arts Hall while the Brownie Pack was formed at the same time. Mrs CT Hindmarsh, who had recently been appointed District Commissioner, donated flags to the company.

At the group's first annual meeting held on July 24, 1952, Mrs Gus Chittick was elected President; Vice-presidents, Mesdames T Welch and AJ Campbell; Secretary Mrs KA Taylor; Treasurer Mrs AE Smith; Publicity Mrs AW Noble; Badge Secretary Mrs RE Cooke and Auditor Mr RK Jones.

Hall in Jeopardy

The Gerringong Scouts and Guides meeting hall - the former Gerringong School of Arts Hall - was placed in jeopardy in July, 1952, with a recommendation placed before the Gerringong Citizens' Committee that the building be demolished. Mr SGW Miller moved the recommendation, saying that the "hideous" building ought to go as a matter of civic pride.

He was aware the Gerringong Scouts wanted the building, but he did not think it suitable for such a purpose. Mr T Jones opposed the motion, saying that the building was suitable for Scouting and

Guiding purposes and "much embarrassment would be caused by knocking it down". Mr Trevallion advised the committee to exercise caution in such matters, he believing that it was possible to convert the old building into a good Scout Hall, at a reasonable cost.

Also speaking against the motion, Mr AW Noble said that while the building was in a dilapidated state, it was common with other buildings in the district. He added that the inside was quite useful. Mr Miller's motion was put to vote and defeated.

Three months later, however, council announced plans to demolish the building to make way for a sports centre and bowling green. Included would be the levelling of a sports ring which would include a hockey field and cricket pitch, adjoined by a bowling green which would be built on the site of the hall.

Discussing the plans at council, Ald Flint recommended that a grant of £1000 be sought to finance the development and purchase of the land. On behalf of several sporting organisations, Mr Athol Noble supported the plans saying that the growth of the population demanded that enough land be dedicated for recreation. Council adopted the plans while agreeing to offer the Scouts and Guides a new block of land on which to build a hall.

The sports centre plans appeared to stall, however, when the future of the hall again came into question at a meeting of Council in October, 1953. Council was influenced by the report of a building expert who said that plans to renovate the building and set the frontage back 12 feet would be "a great improvement".

The building structure was sound, he said, and with proper treatment would last for many years more. Scoutmaster, Mr Rogers, added that the Scouts badly needed "a home of their own" and if they owned the building, the boys would work at beautifying the spot. "Eloquent appeals" were also made by District Guide Commissioner, Mrs CT Hindmarsh, and Guide Mistress, Mrs Jones.

Council was convinced and agreed to lease the land on which the building stood, to enable the start of a £500 improvement program.

Meeting Hall Opens

The newly-renovated Gerringong Scouts and Girl Guides Hall was opened on October 30, 1954, the old School of Arts building being transformed into an "ideal meeting room".

The energetic committee had renovated the front of the building



Kiama's first Scoutmaster, Ray Walker (seated left) is pictured with leaders of the Kiama Scouts and Guiding movement, although their identities are unknown. PHOTO: Walker/Kates Family Collection.

which faced Blackwood Street, the old iron walls being replaced with weatherboards and a brick and concrete entrance with wrought iron railings. The side of the old supper room was extended to provide dens for the Scouts and Guide patrols.

The interior of the hall was lined with certificates and pennants won by the troop and two murals which were painted by Mr H Gallop, a well-known artist who was a frequent visitor to Gerringong.

The official opening followed a march in which scouts, cubs and guides from Gerringong, Kiama, Dapto, Nowra, Oak Flats, Albion Park and Sydney took part and which was led by the Kiama Municipal Band. President of the Gerringong Committee, Mr T Jones, welcomed those present. The opening was performed by Gerringong Mayor, Ald Gus Chittick, who reminded the younger folk that Queen Elizabeth had joined the Guides in 1937 and was still interested in the movement. Similarly, the late King George VI had been a Patron of the Scouts.

Kiama Scout Hall

In April, 1952, the Kiama Scouts Group Committee announced its intention to build a permanent Scout hall on waterfront land made available by the Lands Department.

At the Group's annual meeting, Treasurer Mr S Nance, said that £271 had been earmarked to finance the construction project. Most of the money had resulted from the efforts of Mr Tom Mitchell, who had made his lorry available for the collection of rags and bottles. The full proceeds of these sales to the dealers had been passed on to the committee by Mr Mitchell. District Commissioner, Mr Ray Walker, said that the financial statement was the best he had seen in his 25-year association with Scouting at Kiama.

The Secretary, Mrs H Hillman, said that during the year the Scouts and Cubs, under the supervision of Mr Mitchell, had collected bottles and salvage at monthly intervals. Functions held during the year included a picture night and, in conjunction with the Kiama Show Committee, a soft drinks stall conducted on both days of the Kiama Show.

Group Scoutmaster, Mr McKellar, reported that the troop now consisted of three

patrols while Scouts membership had increased from 11 to 18 and the Cubs from 13 to 21 members. Sixteen Scouts held the Tenderfoot Badge.

Outdoor activities had included a fireworks night, District Scouts Own Service, Anzac Day service, button drive, hobbies display, bottle drives, cooking and mapping lectures, Bob-a-Job Week, a Christmas party, a memorial service to the late King, several hikes and a number of motor trips arranged by Mr Tom Mitchell. Camps were held at Kangaroo Valley, Saddleback Mountain and, in conjunction with the Gerringong Troop, at Foxground.

In June, 1952, the Lands Department officially granted a site on the waterfront, near the Kiama Harbour basin, for the construction of a hall for use by the Kiama Scouts. Four months later, the Lands Department confirmed that a 14-year lease had been granted.

The plans provided for a main hall 40ft x 20ft, with kitchen annexe. The hall was to be built of cement bricks. At the follow-up meeting of the Scout Group Committee, support for the construction of the hall was called by way of cash donations and volunteer labour.

Official Opening

Hundreds of Scouts, Girl Guides, Cubs and Brownies from throughout the South Coast were present at the official opening of the Kiama Scout Hall on November 28, 1953, by the Mayor of Kiama, Ald Ray Walker. Ald Walker was Kiama Scouts' foundation scoutmaster and had also recently retired from the position of District Commissioner.

"After the parade, headed by the Kiama Municipal Band, had reached the site of the new hall, the President of the Kiama Group Committee, Mr S Christophers, extended a welcome to all present. He recalled that two years ago the site was leased from the Department of Lands and that in a period of 18 months, the long-needed building was erected by a band of voluntary workers headed by Mr Tom Mitchell, Mr Jack Carson and Mr J Harvey. He said that the cost of the materials had been £1450 and that this sum had been raised as work proceeded. There was no debt at present, but another £200 or so was needed to finish off the outstanding work."

Kiama Independent
December 2, 1953

Mr Christophers added that donations had included £641 by Mr

Mitchell and the Scouts through their bottle and rag collections, £346 from the Ladies Committee and £280 from Kiama Rotary Club. Mr G Little had done the electrical work and Mr Horne the painting.

Mr Ossie Alexander was asked to declare the official opening in acknowledgement of his family's close association with the scouting movement over the years. His late son, Toby, was a troop leader when Kiama won the HR Lee Flag.

Kiama Guide Hall

In October, 1952, the Lands Department announced that it would lease the Kiama Girl Guides Association a site on the harbour front, for the erection of a hall. The site was located on the "Terralong Street side of the large, red building on the road leading to the inner basin", near the site granted to the Kiama Boy Scouts.

With the object of raising funds for the hall, the sale of bricks at six pennies each was launched.

"The Terralong Terror"

We liked this little piece which appeared in the *Kiama Independent* on March 29, 1950, and was so reflective of the town's friendly, country charm.

"Our friend 'Dinky' Marks has been having an argument with a couple of trams we are sorry to learn. Pretty badly knocked about too, but he's coming along alright, we are pleased to hear. Naturally, he has to miss the cricket final which is a big blow to Jamberoo, but I'm sure Shellharbour are just as sorry because Dinky is popular; a great sportsman, and lends colour to any game he plays in. It's a pleasure to lock horns with him on the cricket field. Strangely enough, the Terralong Terror couldn't keep cricket out of it even when in peril of his life. He got yards of stitches in his many wounds and one of them was a 'six stitcher' in his leg. Those who would have played with and against him in the cricket final will join me in saying 'keep the chin up, Dinky. They couldn't bowl you with a couple of tram loads.'"

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Wedding Belles

NOBLE/ULRICK & EVISON/ULRICK - "History was made" in August, 1953, when a double wedding featuring twin girls was held at the Berry Presbyterian Church. The weddings were celebrated between Mr Frederick Robert John Noble, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Carrington Noble, of *Fountaindale*, Jamberoo, to Miss Hope Ulrick, twin daughter of Mr and Mrs Harvey Ulrick, of Berry. The other twin, Joy, married Mr Raymond Evison, of Cambewarra. "Both brides dressed alike, each were very charming in their chantilly lace over nylon tulle dresses, worn with long sleeves and sweetheart necklines with skirts that fell away to a scalloped train. Both carried bouquets of pale pink orchids, white carnations and hyacinths. The two bridesmaids, two sisters who also bore a close resemblance, the Misses Shirley and Sandra Turner, were in attendance, and two little flower girls, also dressed in replicas of the bridesmaids' dresses, were there to add to the picture. Mr Thomas Noble was best man for his brother, another resemblance, and Mr Peter Evison completed the group as the best man to his brother."

Kiama Independent
September 23, 1953
*** **

GRAHAM/MILLER - "Two well-known Gerringong families" were united on August 7, 1854, when Miss Elaine Maude Graham, the youngest daughter of Mrs E Graham and the late Mr CW Graham, married Mr John Malcolm Miller, eldest son of Mr and Mrs EJ Miller. The wedding took place at St George's Church of England, Gerringong. "The bride wore an ivory embossed satin gown featuring a very full skirt and train, sweetheart neckline and long pointed sleeves, and embroidered with seed pearls and crystal. Her three tiered tulle veil was embroidered and held in place with a coronet of hyacinths, and she carried an ivory prayer book, pink orchids and a trail of white hyacinths. She was attended by Miss June Gamble and Miss Margaret Mitchell who wore ballerina length dresses of lilac embroidered nylon with sweetheart neckline and embroidered colours...The best man was Mr Bruce Campbell and the groomsmen were Messrs Ross Miller and Tom Johnson... For her going away ensemble the bride wore a Ming Blue gabardine suit with white velvet hat, white blouse and gloves, black shoes...The honeymoon was spent touring the North Coast and Queensland by car."

Kiama Independent
August 28, 1854
*** **

TIDMARSH/MARTIN - "A gown of white nylon with pink embroidered flowers...and trimmed with frills of pink nylon tulle over white taffeta" was worn by new bride, Miss Ilma Martin, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs H Martin, on the occasion of her marriage to Dallas Tidmarsh, youngest son of Mrs M Tidmarsh and the late Mr H Tidmarsh. The wedding took place in January, 1956, at Christ Church, Kiama. The bride carried a bouquet of white gladioli, gardenias, stephanotis and pink Cecil Bruner roses. Her bridesmaids were Miss Maureen Tidmarsh, sister of the bridegroom, and Miss Carmel Nicholson, who wore identical gowns of April green brocaded faille. Best man was Mr Matt Graham and the groomsmen were Mr Ron Lyons. Messrs B Tidmarsh and A Campbell acted as ushers. A reception for 103 guests was held in the CW rooms following the service. The bride's going away outfit was a blue linen dress, hand embroidered in white. The couple honeymooned at Forster and made

their home in Kiama.

Kiama Independent
February 8, 1956
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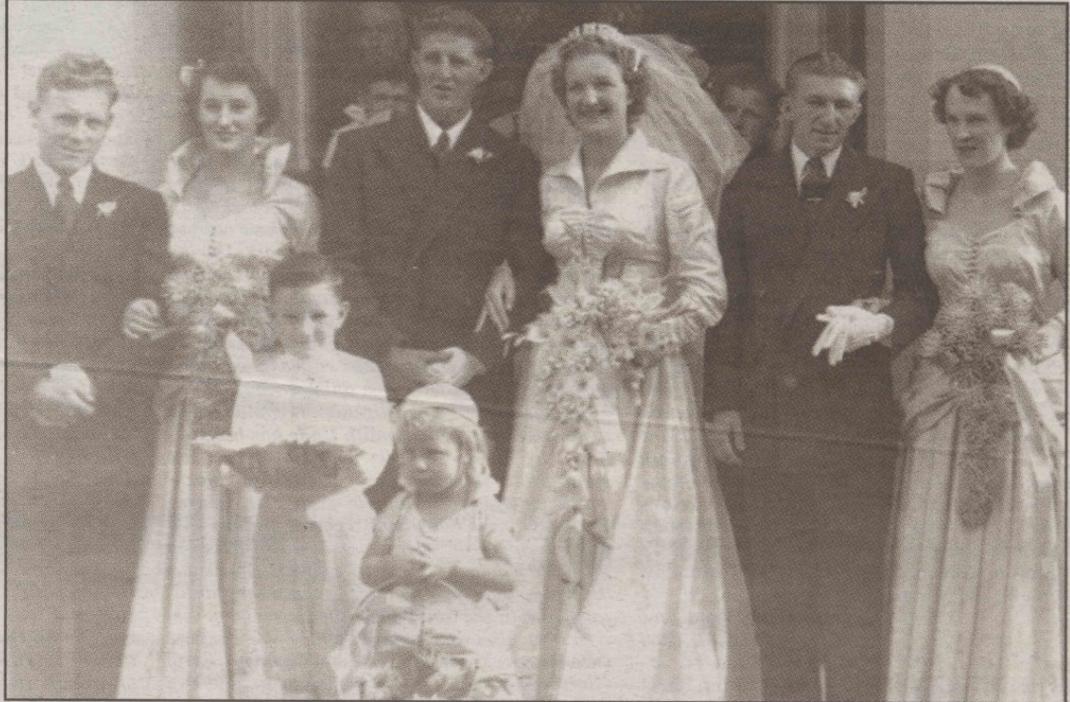
OLIVER/JARRATT - Christ Church, Kiama, was the scene of a pretty wedding between Miss Beryl Jarratt, only daughter of Mr and Mrs SJ Jarratt, of Kiama, and Mr Kenneth Oliver, eldest son of Mrs F Oliver and the late Mr T Oliver on February 17, 1957. "The bride looked charming in a frock of white brocaded faille, cut on classical lines, with a finger tip tulle veil and Juliet cap edged with orange blossoms. She carried a bouquet of gladioli with mixed flowers. She was attended by Mrs Ellen Flynn as Matron of Honour and Miss Mavis Wheeler and Ann Oliver as bridesmaids. They chose frocks of turquoise pure silk chiffon over orchid pink taffeta, featuring sunray pleated skirts and shawl collars. Their head fitted caps were trimmed with a side spray of leaves and they carried bouquets of deep cyclamen mixed flowers. Mr Keith Jarratt acted as best man. Mr FE Palin sang at the signing of the register and Miss Marie Wall sang at the reception. Some 114 guests were received at the reception held at the RSL Clubrooms, Kiama, by Mrs Jarratt who wore a frock of ice blue moss crepe with navy accessories and a shoulder spray of frangipanni...The bride chose a travelling frock of Old Gold moss crepe with a fully pleated skirt, cream and tan hat and tan accessories for the honeymoon which was spent at Narooma and Bega. Their future home will be at Kiama."

Kiama Independent
March 10, 1957
*** **

QUINN/PARKER - St Matthews Catholic Church, Jamberoo, was the scene of a wedding between Barbara Thelma, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs JN Parker of Melrose, Jamberoo, and James Thomas, eldest son of Mr and Mrs JJ Quinn of Brookfield, Gerringong, on June 17, 1957. The bride wore a gown featuring "a guipure lace bodice with spun glass nylon skirt embroidered with guipure lace. A tiara headdress of diamante set in pearls held in place a fingertip veil. The bridal bouquet was of white hyacinths and carnations offset with white nylon fingered ribbon. Bridesmaids were Misses Ann and Pat Parker, sisters of the bride who wore identical gowns of Pervanche blue nylon over taffeta toning muffs trimmed with pink carnations and violets...Messrs Jack and Peter Quinn, brothers of the bridegroom, were best man and groomsmen respectively. The ushers at the church were messrs Tom King, of Albion Park, and Mr Paul Quinn, of Gerringong." A reception for 110 guests was held at the Jamberoo Municipal Hall, the mother of the bride wearing a black-flecked wild rice frock with matching coat and black accessories. The mother of the bridegroom wore a slate blue gown. The honeymoon was spent at Southport and northern Queensland while the couple planned to make their future home in Belinda Street, Gerringong.

Kiama Independent
June 22, 1957
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NOBLE/SHARPE - "Two of the district's best known families were united" in October, 1957, when Margaret Phyllis, only daughter of Mr and Mrs EJ Noble, of *Hillcrest*, Jamberoo, married Colin Stanley, younger son of Mr and Mrs SN Sharpe, of *Bryn-y-mer*, Gerringong. The Rev FG Taplin officiated while friends of the bride, Mesdames R Alexander, G Noble, A Fredericks and L Hartenstein, transformed the Church of the Resurrection, Jamberoo, "into a bower of beautiful



Valmai Hanigan & Trevell Best

BEST/HANIGAN - "Lovely Gown Worn By Bride" - A reception for 130 guests followed the marriage of Miss Valmai Grace Hanigan and Mr Trevell Ross Best at the Methodist Church, Kiama, on Saturday April 26, 1952. The bride was the only daughter of Mr and Mrs FJ Hanigan while the groom was the only son of Mr and Mrs EA Best. "Satin trimmed, the bride's gown of French satin brocaded faille was made with a full skirt and long train. Her finger tip length, three tiered tulle veil featuring a scalloped edge, was held in place with a pearl coronet and she carried a bouquet of tuber roses, gardenias, frangipanni and gladioli. Misses Joyce Graham and Alma Sheather were bridesmaids. They wore frocks of mauve satin embossed moire taffeta, with Juliet caps trimmed on one side with leaves. Their bouquets were of pink carnations and gladioli. Little Julie Ingold was flower girl and her frock of aqua satin embossed

moire taffeta was made identical to those of the bridesmaids...Stanley Warren was pageboy. He was dressed in a white satin suit and carried a white satin cushion. Mr John Hanigan, brother of the bride, was best man and Mr John Warren was groomsman...Mrs Hanigan wore an orchid pink crepe frock with pink hat and black accessories when she received the guests at the Oddfellows Hall. She was assisted by Mrs Best who added grey accessories to her junior navy crepe frock...Congratulations were offered Mr and Mrs Hanigan who, that day, were celebrating their silver wedding anniversary...Leaving by plane for the honeymoon which was spent at Coolangatta, Brisbane, the bride wore a burgundy gaberdine suit...Mrs and Mrs Best will make their home at Kiama."

Kiama Independent
May 14, 1952

blossoms". "The bride wore a princess line frock of French mouille brocade which fell into a graceful train and featured a three-tiered finger tip veil held in place by a coronet of orange blossoms and rhinestones. The pale pink and white bridal bouquet was of orchids and Lily of the Valley. Bridesmaids were Miss June Fredericks and a cousin of the bride, Miss Yvonne Singleton, who wore identical bouffant gowns of ice-blue nylon chiffon over blue taffeta with circlet head-dresses of miniature roses...Best man was Mr Ross French of Sydney and groomsmen were Mr Ken Miller, of Gerringong, both cousins of the bridegroom. During the signing of the register, Mrs E Marks sang "These Lovely Things". Members of the Jamberoo CWA decorated the School of Arts for the reception and there the mother of the bride... received 147 guests...To travel to Lord Howe Island for the honeymoon the bride changed to a suit of Swiss woven cotton in natural tonings with pink hat and gloves and black accessories"

Kiama Independent,
November 9, 1957
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SHARPE/CAMPBELL - "Two well-known Gerringong families were united" at the Gerringong Congregational Church on August 9, 1958, when Miss Barbara Sharpe, daughter of Mrs UI Sharpe and the late Mr RO Sharpe, of Gerringong, married Mr Bruce Campbell, only son of Mr and Mrs AJ Campbell, also of Gerringong. The bride "looked charming in a long-sleeved gown of cream delustrated satin with train. The bodice was appliqued with chantilly lace outlined with pearls and her two-tier nylon tulle veil fell from a circlet of orange blossoms. She carried a

bouquet of parma violets with a pale pink orchid in the centre and tied with satin bows. Miss Pamela Sharpe, sister of the bride, and Misses Beverley and Janice Campbell, sisters of the groom, acted as bridesmaids. Each wore short frocks of brocade with bows down the back of the skirt...Pam's dress was lilac, Beverley's gold and Janice's aqua...Mr Douglas Weir was best man and Messrs David Whalan and Ken Miller groomsmen. Messrs John Miller and Brian

Sharpe acted as ushers. During the signing of the register, Messrs Brian and Cyril Sharpe sang a duet and Miss Pam Sharpe sang at the reception.. Some 120 guests were received at the reception held in the Gerringong Town Hall...For the honeymoon which was spent at Surfers' Paradise, Mrs Campbell chose a cream pleated skirt and cream jumper, a grey tweed top coat with red collar and red accessories."

Kiama Independent
August 21, 1958

~ Obituaries ~

MR NESBIT EVANS HINDMARSH - "One of Kiama's well known and highly respected residents", Mr Hindmarsh died at his residence, Rosebank, Kiama, on April 17, 1950, aged 69. "The late Mr Hindmarsh was one of nature's gentlemen and set an example of what a good citizen should be. He took a keen interest in any movements to benefit his fellow men and in an unassuming way was ever ready to give advice from his wide experience." He was the son of the late Mr and Mrs MN Hindmarsh and followed in his father's footsteps, serving on Kiama Council from 1911 to 1928. He was a foundation member of the Kiama Bowling Club and President for a number of years. "His most outstanding contribution to the welfare of the town in recent years was the manner in which, as Chief Warden, he organised services to meet the threat of bombing etc, during the war. With practically no experience from the authorities, he had stretchers and first aid kits constructed and arranged lectures and drills for the training of personnel to meet the threat which fortunately never materialised...Always interested in gardening, the grounds

of his home were a picture of beauty. At one stage shortly after Memorial Park was established, he undertook the care of the shrubs planted there and but for his interest, it would probably not be as it is today...His interest in education was demonstrated by his 40 years service as Treasurer of the Kiama School of Arts...For 50 years he was a member of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows Lodge...he also gave good service on the Presbyterian Church Committee." Mr Hindmarsh was survived by two sons, Neil and Douglas and one daughter, Margaret.

Kiama Independent, April 27, 1950
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MR GEORGE THOMAS NELSON - Mr George Nelson died at Clareview, the residence of his son, on July 12, 1951, aged 80. Born at Gerringong, the late Mr Nelson was a son of the late Mr and Mrs Andrew Nelson. He was possessed of a "quiet, retiring disposition" and was a lover of his home and an ardent worker for the church. He married Miss Ada Mary Love, who survived him, together with one son, Neville and one daughter, Lucy (Mrs MK Parker).

Kiama Independent, July 18, 1951

Obituaries

MR HENRY JAMES ROBB - Mr Robb died on May 24, 1950, aged 72 years. "He had not enjoyed the best of health for a number of years, and some 10 months ago was admitted to hospital. While there he had a fall and broke his leg and was confined to his bed ever since. Harry, as he was so well known...was a son of the late Hugh and Elizabeth Robb, and after his parents' death he and his brothers carried on the 'Myrtle Grove' farm on Jamberoo Road. The farm was a portion of the Riversdale Estate, which was acquired by his grandfather, the late James Robb, 120 years ago in September next. The late Mr Robb gave up dairy farming about six years ago and came to live in Kiama with his sister, Mrs O Tory. His great interest was in rifle shooting and for many years he took an active part in the Kiama club. from 1921 until 1937 he was Treasurer of the club, and when the club was reformed after the war, he acted as assistant treasurer for a time and was later elected a patron of the club. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, Protestant Alliance Lodge, Orange Lodge and the Buffaloes Lodge...Of a rather quiet, friendly disposition, he was well known and respected by a wide circle of friends." He was survived by one brother, William (Sydney), and three sisters Myrtle (Mrs G Reason, Albion Park), Elsie (Mrs Munday, Grenfell), and Minnie (Mrs Tory, Kiama).

Kiama Independent
May 31, 1950

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MR HENRY MILLER - Mr Henry Miller, 85, of Shoalhaven Street, Kiama, died on September 30, 1950. He was the third son of the late William and Jane Miller who came from Paisley Park, Scotland, and settled at Renfrew Park, Omega. He followed farming pursuits on the property known as Dunoon, Omega and only severed his connection with the property a few years earlier when it was bought by Mr SR Tulloch. "Of a quiet nature, the late Mr Miller did not take an active part in public life, but was a kindly neighbour and friend. In his younger days he was a keen cricketer and in later years followed the activities of the local cricket club with keen interest, being a regular spectator at matches. He was a foundation member of the Protestant Alliance Lodge at Gerringong and also a charter member of the Good Templars Lodge at that centre. The late Mr Miller married Miss Florence Morrow who predeceased him several years ago. Since that time he received the devoted care and attention of Misses R Miller and L Morrow. The late Mr Miller survived by one brother, James George Miller of 'Parkview', Omega."

Kiama Independent
October 11, 1950

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MRS MARGARET JANE LOVE - Mrs Love died at her Manning Street residence on July 13, 1951, aged 89 years. Mrs Love was born in England and met her husband, the late Mr Thomas Love, on the voyage out to Australia. They lived at Silver Hill, Kiama, until a few years before her husband's death in 1926, when they moved to Rose Valley. The late Mr Love was Mayor of Kiama for 14 years during which Mrs Love carried out the duties of Mayoress "with grace and distinction". She was also interested in many of the charity organisations of the town. "A good mother and kindly neighbour, particularly in times of trouble, she made a wide circle of friends who will regret her passing." She was survived by seven children Thomas (Kangaroo Valley), Margaret (Mrs A Brown, Cambewarra), Kathleen (Mrs J Brown, Queensland), Gwen (Kiama), Dorothy (Mrs Smith), Patrick and Ormond (Queensland). One son, Hugh, predeceased her.

Kiama Independent
July 18, 1951

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MR DAVID HYAM - "A link with the history of this district was severed by the death at Terrara of Mr David Hyam, a grandson of Michael Hyam who established the present township of Jamberoo." Mr Hyam died on November 30, 1951. "The area reserved for the town was in the vicinity of where the Robertson Road leaves the Albion park Road, but in 1827 Michael Hyam migrated to this country and established a private township which is now Jamberoo. About 1846, Michael Hyam moved to the Shoalhaven where his descendants have resided ever since. The late Mr David Hyam had been in ill-health for some time. He is survived by two sisters."

Kiama Independent
December 5, 1951

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MR WILLIAM CHARLES LEES - "One of Gerringong's best known residents in the person of William Charles Lees", died on March 9, 1953, aged 72 years. "The late Mr Lees, who was born in 1879, was a son of the late William Jordan Lees and Emma Lees who were married in 1874. His parents were both born in Kiama in 1850 and after their marriage they settled on a farm in

Gerringong where they raised their family of two daughters and one son. The late Mr Lees was born at Gerringong near where Mr AL Burgess now has his property. The late Mr Lees was descendant from some of the oldest pioneers of the district. His grandfather, James Sutton Lees, arrived in Sydney in 1822 and married Mary Ann Lees in 1829. Shortly after their marriage they settled in the Kiama district where they raised a family of eight daughters and three sons. Right up to the time of his illness, the late Mr Lees was engaged in his trade of blacksmith at Gerringong; a trade in which he had been so engaged for a period of almost 60 years. During all these years he built up a reputation of being a very capable and honest tradesman. He also had a reputation for his veterinary work. He had a love for horses and cattle and in fact all animals. He was always willing when called to go to the assistance of folk with sick animals and he displayed great skill and diligence...It is interesting to record that the blacksmith trade has been followed by the Lees family for many years. His great-grandfather was one of the first blacksmiths in Australia having a shop in Bourke Street, Sydney...Possessing a cheery and friendly disposition, the late Mr Lees was a real friend to all with whom he came in contact. Known as 'Bill' to young and old alike, he was a very familiar figure in the daily life of the Gerringong district." Mr Lees was survived by his wife Frances (nee Keogh), three sons William (Sydney), Errol (Gerringong) and Lester (Wollongong), and two daughters, Edna (Mrs E Stoyles of Wollongong), and Olga (Mrs L Heggarty, of Wollongong).

Kiama Independent
March 22, 1952

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MR WILLIAM WILSON - Mr William Wilson, of Saddleback, died on March 18, 1952, aged 74 years. "The late Mr Wilson was a member of a family which helped pioneer this district. He was the son of the late Robert and Mary Anne Wilson, who were among the earliest members of the Osborne Estate. Those were not easy days and the pioneers needed a capacity for work long since outmoded. This capacity, however, was inherited by the late Mr Wilson who spent all his days, until his retirement about two years ago, in dairy farming. It must have been a hard life when William set up house on Saddleback with his bride, Isobel Florence Walker, of Fountaindale. Yet the family was always ready with offers of help in another's trouble and William set the good example of citizenship and neighbourliness. He was not one to sit back and complain; neither about life's troubles nor yet the state of the roads...After his retirement about two years ago the late Mr Wilson and Mrs Wilson took up residence at 'Hollymount'." He was survived by his wife, Violet (Mrs WH Wilson, Gwynneville), Daphne (Mrs North, Fern Hill), Merle (Mrs Doug Mitchell, Rose Valley), William (Saddleback), Doreen (Mrs WA Mitchell, Hollymount, Kiama), Marjorie (Wollongong), Robert (Hollymount) Eileen (Saddleback), Oliver (Saddleback), and Marie (Hollymount).

Kiama Independent
March 29, 1952

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MR HENRY JAMES CHIN - Ex-Diggers from Kiama formed a guard of honour and the Last Post was sounded at the funeral of former Kiama RSL member, Mr Henry Chin, who died on September 24, 1952, aged 66 years. The son of the late William and Alice Chin, Mr Chin was born in Kiama in 1886 and was a returned soldier of war, having been attached to the 19th Battalion during the 1914-18 War. Employed in the local quarries, he took an active part in local life and was Secretary of the Bombo P&C Association for about five years and Secretary of the Bombo Football Club. He was married to Miss Nellie Eliza Neal who predeceased him in 1944. He left 10 children - Lillian (Mrs Jarvie, Rosebery), Alfred (Bulli), William (Belfield), Sadie (Mrs Kohler, Bexley), Iris (Mrs Harrison, Arncliffe), Betty (Mrs Wheeler, Mascot), Enid (Mrs Crutchley, Dapto), Merle (Mrs Hayward, Albion Park), John and Heather, both of Albion Park. He was also survived by one brother and four sisters.

Kiama Independent
October 4, 1952

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MR JAMES DEVERY - The death of Mr James Devery, of Rosemount, Foxground, occurred on August 27, 1953, aged 87. He was born on the property on which he died, the third son of the late Patrick and Mary Devery. He married Miss Elizabeth Taylor, who died in December, 1951. "The late Mr Devery was a staunch adherent of the Roman Catholic Church and exercised his Christian principles in every day life. For 24 years he was secretary of the Gerringong Church and was a foundation member of the St Peter's branch of the HACB Society which was formed in 1903 and he became the first president. His fine citizenship was acknowledged by the fact that for

50 years he was a Justice of the Peace. He served for several years on the Committee of the Berry Agricultural Society and was the first President of the Foxground-Broughton Village Parents & Citizens' Association. The late Mr Devery took a keen interest in the dairying industry. He was a Director, and at one time Secretary of the old Foxground branch of the Country Milk Suppliers' Association and served as Secretary of the old milk association known as the South Coast and West Camden Milk Suppliers' Association. In 1908, with the late Mr John Love, Mr Devery received an illuminated address and gold pendant in recognition of services rendered to the industry. He was the first to supply milk from the Foxground area as an individual supplier to the Sydney milk trade, that being in 1903. In 1897, following sports held at Berry, the late Mr Devery as a member of the NSW Lancers was chosen to go to England on the occasion of a visit to celebrate the record reign of Queen Victoria. Unfortunately, he had to decline the trip, but it is interesting to record that Major Jack Dooley of Gerringong was selected and made the trip. Keenly interested in horses, the late Mr Devery was recognised as an excellent judge and his services were often sought for coastal and other shows as far afield as Goulburn. He was a keen competitor in the Show ring and had the honour of being defeated on twice in 36 contests. Possessing a quiet disposition, he was a kindly neighbour and made a host of friends who were interested to hear his remarks concerning the early days of the district. He is survived by one son, Bede, who has proved a devoted son for many years. One sister, Ellen, of Lismore, also survives."

Kiama Independent
September 16, 1953

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COLONEL COLIN DUNMORE FULLER - The death of the districts most decorated soldier, Colonel CD Fuller, occurred on September 19, 1953, after a long illness. His death "severed a link with an era of gallantry in the field of battle - he was a much-decorated officer - and kindness to all in his native district who needed a helping hand. For many years past almost the whole of this district had been aware that he was gradually sinking and that the end would not be long...He was born at Dunmore House into a family that was destined to earn distinction. He was the son of the late Mr and Mrs George L Fuller and brother of Sir George Fuller who was to become the Premier of NSW. Another brother, Bryan, became a famous barrister. Before the First World War, Col Fuller was a member of the local Light Horse Regiment and when war broke out enlisted with the AIF in the 6th Light Horse and went overseas to Egypt. It was in the conflict with the Turks that Col Fuller reached the peak of his distinguished career - he took part in the famous Battle of Beersheba and went through to Damascus, leading local men among his command. One of the men who served with him in Gallipoli and in Palestine said he was a fine commander in the former campaign, where he led foot troops, but really came into his own element when he commanded mounted troops in the latter campaign. For his outstanding ability, he was awarded the DSO and Bar and was one of eight men from the State who held the decoration from the Egyptian Royal House of the Order of the Nile. Col Fuller came back to the district and for years afterwards took the cause of the returned soldier to his heart. He became President of the Kiama RSL and was a great and respected leader. In those days he was a tower of strength to the Agricultural and Horticultural Society and made himself one of its most outstanding Presidents. He also took a great interest in the hospital and worked ceaselessly for its advancement in the knowledge that it was one of his mother's loves...But in all his local activities he was dependant upon the close support of his wife, the former Amy Rae, who survives him." He was also survived by his sisters Florence (Mrs Palmer), Edith, his brothers Alfred and Bryan, his children Hope (Mrs Rutledge), Betty (Mrs Palmer) and grandchildren Grahame, Ian and Michael.

Kiama Independent
September 23, 1953

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MR RICHARD GEORGE HOLDEN - "One of Kiama's well-known residents, Mr Richard George Holden, of Bong Bong Street, died on Thursday (April 12, 1954), ending a life-long association with the district." Mr Holden had lived in Kiama all his life and had followed his father as a butcher, working with his brother Walter in conducting the butcher's shop in Manning Street, until a few years earlier. Since then he had assisted his son-in-law, Mr Leatheam, in his dry cleaning business. Mr Holden was perhaps best known as a member of the Kiama Fire Brigade. He first joined in 1908 and his term of service was only exceeded by his brother, Walter, who was recognised as holding

the longest personal record of fire service in NSW. The late Mr Holden "was known as a kindly, cheery man with a ready smile but one who was never afraid to express his opinion but so doing without offending". He was a trustee and steward at Kiama Methodist Church. He was survived by his wife, Violet, two daughters Phyllis (Mrs Mahaffy, Wollongong), and Cecily (Mrs Leatheam, Kiama), and son Alan.

Kiama Independent
April 14, 1954

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MR BRYAN FULLER QC - Mr Bryan Fuller, a prominent Queen's Counsel and former Kiama man, died following a car accident on March 23, 1956. He was aged 67 years. Mr Fuller was born at Dunmore, the brother of the late Sir George Fuller, former Premier of NSW, the late Col CD Fuller, of Dumore, and the late Mr Archie Fuller. He was admitted to the Bar in 1913 and was made a King's Counsel in 1938. He had an extensive practice in Common Law and was, for a short time before the Second World War, an acting Judge of the NSW District Court. He also served as Vice-president of the Law Council of Australia and was one of the leading laymen in the Presbyterian Church of Australia. At the time of his death he was procurator for the Australian General Assembly and the NSW branch of the Church. Mr Fuller was President of the NSW Lawn Tennis Association and was on his way to a meeting in his rooms of the Association executive when he was injured.

Kiama Independent
March 28, 1956

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MRS HAZEL SADINAL FILMER - The death of a "highly respected resident and active worker for many organisations within the district", Mrs Hazel Filmer, occurred in October, 1956. She was aged just 48 years. Mrs Filmer was born at Jamberoo, the daughter of Mr and Mrs Ernest King, now of Ayr Park, Jerrara. "Mrs Filmer was a most active member of many organisations including the CWA, P&C Mothers' Club and the C of E Guild. She held a position as a lady Cubmaster with the Kiama pack and was also a member of the Scout Group Committee. She was regarded as a wonderful neighbour and the many floral tributes at the funeral indicated her standing in the community." Mrs Filmer was survived by her husband, Everett, two sons Brian and Kerry, three sisters Doris (Mrs Boyce of Kiama), Merle (Mrs Wilcocks, of Jerrara), and Lola (Mrs Baker of Goulburn), and two brothers Messrs Lyle and Les King. During the funeral service Boy Scouts formed a Guard of Honour around the casket and repeated the Scouts' Prayer.

Kiama Independent
November 7, 1956

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MRS ROSANNAH GARDNER - "A well-known and respected resident of the Kiama district", Mrs Gardner, died in May, 1957, aged 80 years. Mrs Gardner was born at Major's Creek, near Braidwood, the daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Thomas Fenson. In 1899, she married Mr Gardner and had lived at Kiama for the past 40 years. "Mrs Gardner did not take part in district affairs as her time was occupied in caring for her large family, particularly one daughter who was stricken with polio at the age of 12 years and crippled as a result." She was survived by her husband and six children, Jean (Sydney), Evelyn (Mrs Downey, Sydney), George (Kiama), Tom (Goulburn), Darcy (Sydney) and Leo (London).

Kiama Independent
May 18, 1957

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MR ROBERT JAMES WILSON - Mr Robert Wilson, died on June 4, 1959, aged 73. The son of the late Andrew and Susan Wilson, he was born at Foxground. "He often spoke of the days in Foxground when soon after leaving school he drove a waggon pulled by a team of horses from Foxground to Gerringong, taking the milk into the railway. Later still he became the manager of the Foxground Dairy Factory, long since disappeared and later he started farming at Yellow Rock, near Dapto. He came to Kiama in 1921 and farmed on 'Kaleula' which has recently become 'Beachside' subdivision. Mr Wilson's main interests were in dairying and he became a member of the Kiama A and H Association, serving as President and Chief Cattle Steward and was elected a Life Member. He was also a member of the AIS Breed Society and judged at shows on the North Coast and Near Sydney areas. He had given eight years service as an alderman of Kiama Council and was a member of Kiama Bowling Club for 30 years. A few years ago he was elected as a Life Member. The late Mr Wilson married Miss Alice Blow who survives together with one daughter Jean (Mrs Judd, Sydney), and three sons Dick, Thomas and Geoffrey, all of Kiama."

Kiama Independent
June 13, 1959