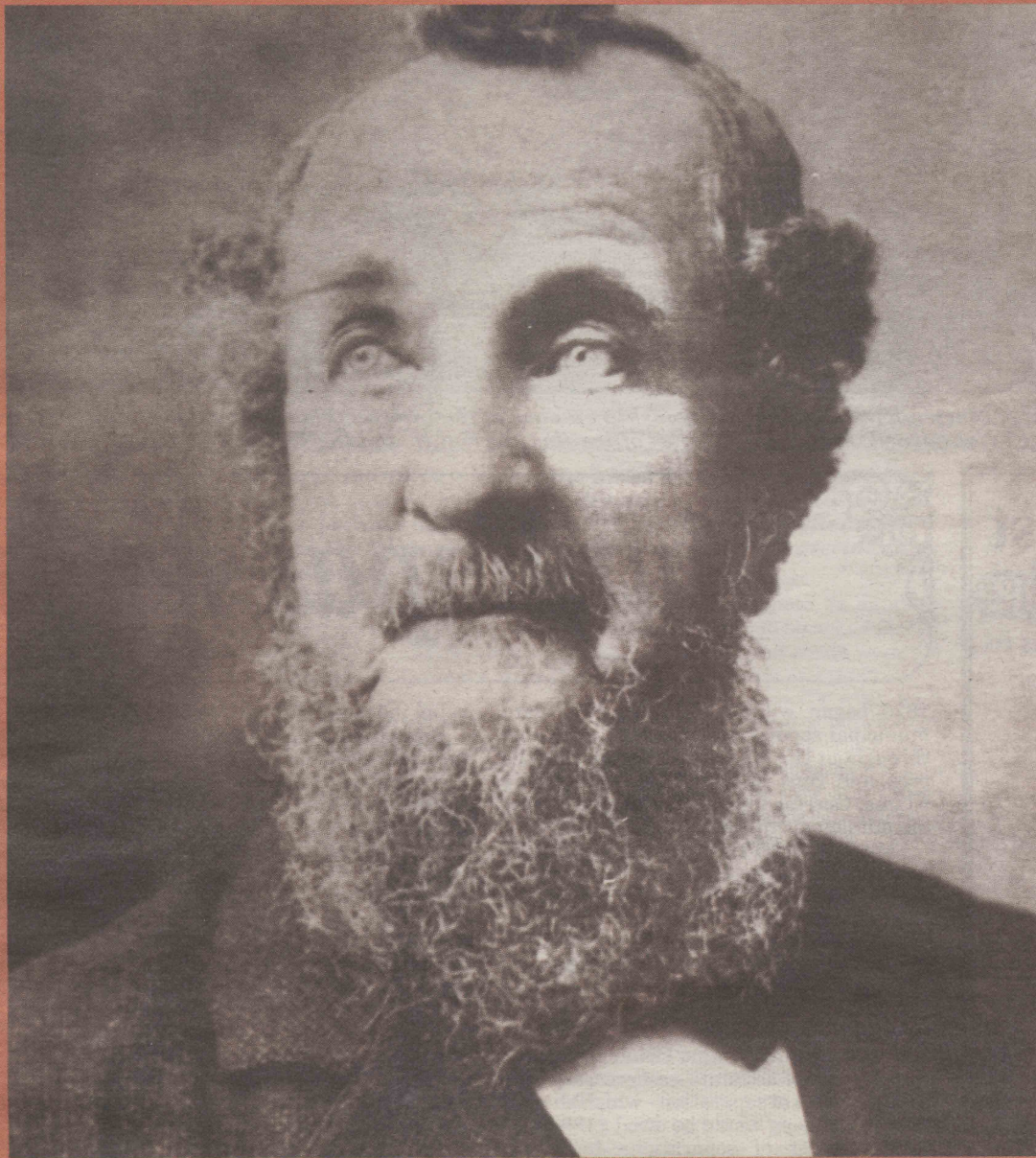


Kiama

MUNICIPALITY

OUR HISTORY IN PRINT



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

Volume 2

COLLECTOR'S EDITION

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1870-79 A time of immense change

IN this, the second edition of the *Kiama Independent's Our History In Print* series, we look at the period 1870-79.

The 1870s was characterised by immense community progress and change in Kiama Municipality.

Public (national) schools were opened at Kiama, Gerringong and Jamberoo, the blue metal industry was established, the first call for a public hospital was voiced, Kiama Post Office was built and the Kiama

Harbour project was - finally - brought to fruition.

One of the most exciting developments, though, was the first shipment of butter from Kiama to London. But as the local farmers were to learn, they had a good way to go before the process was perfected.

The early 1870s was also characterised by storms and long periods of rain which saw several floods, the shipwreck of the *Rangoon* at Minnamurra and cancellation of auspicious community events such as the

laying of the first stone of the Kiama Public School. A drought then followed in 1876 when many head of cattle were destroyed.

The roads were still a constant source of annoyance and articles complaining about the thoroughfares appeared regularly in the *Kiama Independent*.

For the newspaper's 'Jamberoo correspondent', whose reports over the previous 10 years were largely characterised by the opener, "There is nothing new to report out this way", the condition of the roads became

a favoured topic of discussion (and grievance).

Improvements were made, but not without the usual amount of public criticism. It seemed like, no matter what council enacted, it was never good enough or fast enough for the ratepayers, and the ominous cloud of municipal separation loomed constantly.

by Michelle Hocter



• This is believed to be one of the earliest photographs of Gerringong township - a view of the intersection of Fern and Belinda Streets, taken in the 1880s. Note the former Gerringong Public School (top right) which was opened in 1876, the old post office (bottom right), and the 'Ocean View' Hotel (top left). Photo from the Ken Miller Collection.

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Municipal separation

1870 began with earnest moves toward municipal separation. Meetings were held throughout the municipality to discuss the pros and cons of the three townships - Kiama, Gerringong and Jamberoo - becoming municipal entities in their own right.

Much debate ensued and the phrase "separationist" was coined. As a side issue, 'Broughton Vale' also sought separation from the Gerringong ward.

In reading the minutes of a special meeting held at Kiama Council in February 1870, it is evident that the case was not a matter of *if* the three wards should separate, but *when*.

At the meeting, Kiama Council provided a statement of accounts - a necessary step in the process of separation - which showed that Gerringong would be owed £189 6s 6d in the event of separation. Jamberoo, meantime, had an overdrawn account, it

being indebted to council for £38 6s 6d.

Broughton Vale, in pressing for separation, was owed £30 by Gerringong.

By mid-1870, it was evident that most residents of the municipality - including those of Kiama - regarded a split by Gerringong as being both wise and expedient.

At Jamberoo, though, opinion was divided. Ultimately, those favouring separation sought a deputation with the Government to have the process activated. Messrs Stephen Major and John Cullen were the first names added to a petition for the campaign.

In June 1870, at a special meeting held at Kiama Court-house, Mayor John Marks said that he was not entirely against the push for separation, especially in the case of Gerringong where, because of its shipping facilities, he believed the people of the town were "in a good position to work a municipality of their own".

In the case of Jamberoo, though, he considered separation to be "an absurd thing", saying the interests of the two communities were bound together, they sharing a mutual shipping port.

Former Mayor, John Black, following Mr Mark's lead, proposed that the municipality be divided in two.

Kiama's first mayor, James Colley, said he favoured separation, saying that "a mistake had been made in incorporating Kiama, Gerringong and Jamberoo in one municipality".

Separationists CD Young (Gerringong), and John Cullen (Jamberoo) said that they did not believe their respective communities would accept Mr Black's proposal. Nevertheless, discussion was adjourned pending further meetings in each of the townships.

At a general meeting held on July 7, 1870, and attended by 100 residents, John Black again moved the historic motion that the borough be split in two.

Henry Frederick Noble moved an amendment, seconded by Mr Cullen, that the Colonial Secretary be informed that, regardless of the outcome, it was not a unanimous vote as the residents of Jamberoo had been divided on the matter. The recommendations were put to vote and carried.

On April 24, 1871, after 12 years of debate and civic feuding, the separation of Gerringong and Broughton's Vale from Kiama and Jamberoo was proclaimed, the following extract appearing in the *Kiama Independent*, on April 27, 1871.

"Sydney, 24th April, 1871. Sir - With reference to correspondence relating to the proposed separation of certain portions of the Borough of Kiama, and their erection into separate municipalities, I am now directed by the Colonial Secretary to invite your attention to the two proclamations published in a supplementary Government Gazette of this day's date - the one separating and constituting the two new Municipal Districts of 'Gerringong' and 'Broughton's Vale', and the other incorporating the Kiama and Jamberoo Wards of your municipality as the 'Borough of Kiama'... you most obedient servant, Henry Halloran."

An election was held in January 1872, to replace the three vacated seats on new Kiama Council, the results being: WJ McIlwrath 173 votes, J Farragher 163, and HF Noble 137. Those electors who missed out were: S Charles 134, G Wood 108 and CD Young 78.

At Gerringong, at a meeting held at the Lanterrick Hotel, the fate of 16 election hopefuls for municipal honours on the first Gerringong Municipal Council was decided by ballot.

The nine successful candidates were: James Blow 111, Robert Miller 105, ME Robson 92, G Tate 92, GJ Hindmarsh 80, W Williams 74, John Wilson 74, Andrew Nelson 70 and James Campbell 60. Those unsuccessful were: Stephen Major 58 votes, J Melliday 55, T Black 52, J McClelland 48, John Feehan 45, W Weir 33 and John Chin 17.

At the first meeting of the new council, Alderman Robson was appointed inaugural mayor.

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Weeds, roads and bridges

Weed control

The control of noxious weeds was as prominent a concern for the community in the 1800s as it is today.

By 1870, Kiama Council had a weed inspector (the Town Clerk, James Somerville) who was authorised to charge the owner or occupier of any land where noxious weeds were allowed to grow "to the detriment of good husbandry" (*Kiama Independent*, January 27, 1870).

A loop-hole in the act, however, hampered the prosecution of landowners, but this was overcome by a by-law framed by Kiama Council.

The first successfully tried case was against Rose Valley farmer, Mr A Emery, who had allegedly allowed Scotch thistle to "luxuriate" on his property.

To his defence, Mr Emery said he had not long taken up the property and had spent "every hour he could... devoted to the eradication of the thistles".

In view of his convincing testimony, he was charged just 1s (one cent) with no court costs. It was a minor outcome in the way of costs, but one which was intended to have a reverberating affect on the landowners of the district.

Roads

Council's track record for road improvements continued on a shaky path and added fuel to the debate of separation.

In an article simply entitled 'The Roads' (21.11.1872), the *Kiama Independent* provided a commentary on council's efforts to date, and the report card was not glowing.

Particularly contempt was expressed at the decision to excavate the 'flat' at Black Beach, to provide material for local roads, especially as the area had been planned as a playground for the Kiama Public School.

"It is a subject of frequent and just remark that the council was guilty of a most discreditable act of vandalism permitting the removal, bodily, of the whole flat on the beach below the public school... it was calculated as an excellent playground for the children of the public school, and was, besides, a very pleasant resort for people of all sorts."

Improvements were made with the decision to pave the local roads with blue metal in lieu of soil, but the road material was of such a disagreeable nature (probably too large), that the *Kiama Independent* called for the return of the earthen thoroughfares and even suggested that both be laid, side by side, to provide travellers with a choice.

The council redeemed itself "from the reproach of absolute indifference to all matters of taste" with its work in connection with the historic old Figtree, growing on the flat beyond the Kiama Presbyterian Church, although it is uncertain what work this involved.

Drainage 'improvements' at the intersection of Terralong and Manning Streets were also heavily criticised by the *Kiama Independent* in June 1870.

"MUNICIPAL WORKS - ... (It) excites the contemptuous wonder of everybody who stops to observe it, that any should suppose a pipe of



• This picture - taken in the 1870s - depicts the historic fig tree which was formerly located on Black Beach, beyond the Kiama Presbyterian Church. It appears that the tree became the focus of public consternation after Kiama Council made the decision to excavate the 'flat' for road surface material, thus leaving the old tree vulnerable.

the diminutive size employed, to be capable of carrying off the torrent of water which, in a smart rain, pours along the water table leading to the spot... When our neighbours at Gerringong and Jamberoo witness such almost incredible blunders... it is not surprising that they should be desirous to sever their municipal connection."

As the condition of the roads gradually improved, the number of "light" vehicles increased and the demand for buggies kept manufacturers in Kiama "in a state of activity". With this new optimism, orders were placed for vehicles of greater taste, style and finish. In September, 1877, a buggy was turned out at Mr Huxley's stelier to the order of Mr N Craig. The vehicle, costing £45, was a double-seated, under-cut buggy "of stylish and handsome appearance".

In March 1878, a meeting was held in the Kiama Courthouse to discuss petitioning the government for funds to "cut down Spring Hill", the site being regarded as "as much an obstacle for horse and dray from Jamberoo to the harbour as Pikes Hill".

Henry Frederick Noble, in supporting a motion that £600 be asked for the project, said that "good roads were the first sign of civilisation and progress".

In June, 1879, Council's woes with the roads were relieved somewhat by the proclamation of the road from Campbelltown to the Shoalhaven as a Main Road under the new Main Road Management Act, bringing it under the jurisdiction of the Government.

Bridges

By May 1870, the newly contracted Spring Creek Bridge was nearing completion, but community opinion dictated that it was not long enough and might be washed away in the next flood. Their calls for an additional span, however, went unmet by the financially-strapped council.

The Government, meantime, announced an additional £400 for the construction of a bridge over the Minnamurra River.

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Libraries, post office, fire brigade

Kiama Library

In 1872 government grants of £200 were districted to wards throughout the colony for the establishment of 'free' public libraries.

Until this point, points were available through branches of the Literary Debating Society and the School of Arts, but, it appears for a rental fee.

Locally, Kiama was the first to act on the grant with moves to open the library being made in May.

A sample list of books taken from the first two or three letters of the alphabet from Mr JJ Moore's alphabetical catalogue was prepared. Not included was works of "controversial theology and fiction".

The library's range of books was swelled by those of the former Kiama School of Arts Library and calls were made to the community to return outstanding loans.

The library was officially opened on October 7, 1872, with 1000 volumes being available including *Blackstone's Commentaries* and *Macaulay's England*. Within the month, 250 applications for membership had been registered which, the *Kiama Independent* commented, "...indicates on the part of our local population, a creditable amount of appreciation of the means of mental culture placed at their disposal".

In August 1874, the Gerringong Free Public Library was opened.

The new libraries were seen as a replacement for the former Literary and Debating Societies which appeared to have lapsed with time.

In March, 1877, a meeting was held to establish a public reading room which would include "the principal English newspapers and magazines in which the great questions of the day were discussed".

The *Kiama Independent* said that the room would service "the intelligent portion of the local public". Ultimately, the magistrate's room at the Kiama Court-house was secured for the purpose and the room was opened within the month, operating from 10am to 10pm, at a cost of 10s per annum.

Jamberoo Mountain Road

In January 1972, progress was made toward clearing a track up the Jamberoo Mountain for the purpose of a road and a contract had been let for this purpose.

As today's residents would know, once the road was cleared, much of it remained in pre-1800s condition for the next 120 years, and was not completely sealed until the mid-1990s.

Public Baths

In the spring of 1874, moves were made to establish public baths in Kiama.

The *Kiama Independent*, in promoting the cause, said that "The want of some safe and convenient place for bathing has long been felt, both by the inhabitants and visitors", and urged residents to "give their assistance to a movement which will attend materially to health and comfort".

Construction of the baths - proposed to be excavated "in the flat rock at the foot of the cliff, opposite the basin" (at the base of

Pheasant Point) - was taken on as a private venture by the Kiama Public Baths Company.

The project was estimated to cost £600 - this amount to be raised through shares of 10s each. Two distinct bathing pools were planned - one for members of each sex. A roof was to be built over the top to ensure privacy and dressing boxes would also be constructed.

The baths were opened in January 1877, with women being allowed to bath for five days of the week while males were restricted to Saturdays and Sunday mornings until nine o'clock.

The charge was three pence for adults and half price for children (and a discount for shareholders). Tickets were available from storeholders located close to the baths.

Despite good intentions, the public baths were not well frequented and were allowed to become rundown. To provide an idea of the condition of the baths, the *Kiama Independent* suggested that the pool could be called "The Larrikin's Water Closet (toilet)" rather than the baths.

In August 1878, Kiama Council was asked to take over the management of the pool in the hope that its popularity would increase and the venture would be successful and the management of the public facility subsequently changed hands.

Kiama Postal & Telegraphic Office

Telecommunications progressed with the completion of telegraphic communication between England and Australia.

To mark the occasion, a banquet was held at the Sydney Exchange in November, 1872, and those in attendance included the chairman, the Hon Alexander Campbell, and the Hon Henry Parkes.

"...After entering the banquet-room, his Excellency despatched congratulations to Lord Kimberley (Secretary for the Colonies) by means of a telegraphic instrument which was placed near him for the purpose. The reply, however, did not arrive till the following morning." *Kiama Independent*, November 21, 1872

In 1876, Kiama Council moved to build a new postal and telegraphic office on the "town hall site".

The contract was awarded to Mr Vaughan of Sydney, in January, 1878, and work commenced on January 29.

An anomaly existed in the design of the building, however, in that the design of the new clock tower did not include a clock - much to the horror of the local residents.

"THE NEW POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPHIC OFFICE - It has been taken for granted... that the new building above mentioned was to be furnished with a clock, which it was naturally expected, would form a chronometrical correctness to the portable and other horologes upon which our residents habitually rely... A town-clock, moreover, is a thing traditionally necessary to the dignity of a country town... It seems, however, that although the clock tower forms the most prominent characteristic of the new building - or at least of the design - it is not to include the feature from which its appellation is derived...the absence of a clock is such a marked defect, and places the whole thing in the class of shams." *Kiama Independent*, July 23, 1878

The post office was completed in December 1878, and was described by the *Kiama Independent* as "the greatest architectural ornament which the town at present possesses".

The building was constructed of red, Melbourne brick which was coated with two coats of liquid cement and finished with paintwork "of a red colour".

To the community's great relief, the building also included a clock. But the oversight was not rectified until the latter stage of the project - the timber floors having to be cut to allow for the descent of the weights.

Encouraged by the construction of the new post office, Kiama Council, in May, 1879, recommended that an approach be made to the Postmaster-General for a daily postal delivery. As such approaches had been successful in other towns throughout the colony, the local representatives were confident of success.

In November, 1879, Telegraphic Offices at Jamberoo and Gerringong were opened.



• Kiama Post Office in 1870.

Kiama Fire Brigade

The formation of a Kiama Fire Brigade received its first show of support in August 1878, following an approach to Kiama Council by the Mercantile Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

The company offered the town a subscription of £10 if a brigade was established in Kiama within 12 months. The cost of a suitable engine was stated as being £70.

The Council, "in view of establishing so desirable an institution", instructed the clerk, Mr Somerville, to solicit subscriptions from other fire insurance companies who were interested in the Kiama district.

Gerringong Jetty

In April 1876, Gerringong Municipal Council held a special meeting to consider the long-standing battle to have a jetty built by the Government at the local harbour.

At the meeting, it was learnt that Kiama Council, in 1870, had been offered the sum of £1100 for the jetty - if they agreed to built it. Council declined the offer and the money was reverted to the treasury. The aldermen moved that a new estimate of £1500 be submitted to the government - along with the advice that if the monies were forthcoming, council would this time undertake the project.

On the shipping front, an apparent reluctance by Kiama Council to upgrade the "pyramid-like ridges" between Gerringong and Kiama, and thus improve the conveyance of produce to Kiama Harbour, saw the southern residents join forces with the Shellharbour Steam Navigation Company (SSNC) to stimulate local trade and commerce.

This association was strengthened in April 1876, by the arrival of the *Dairymaid*, a steamer built especially for the SSNC.

"GERRINGONG - 'Advance Gerringong' was the motto of the SSN Company and it cannot be denied that they have so far been successful, in at least, a commercial point of view. There is much more trade done in the various places of business since the company's steamer, *Dairymaid*, has made her periodical visits to the boatharbour. On Mondays and Thursdays the village is crowded with shippers and others on their way to and from the shipping port." *Kiama Independent*, May 30, 1876

In July 1878, a public meeting was held at Gerringong to again push for the construction of a jetty. Three successive governments had been waited on by local deputations, but none had been successful. The townspeople moved that another deputation be sought for construction, not only of the jetty, but a tramway for the unloading of the 'surf-boat'.

Parks, Reserves & Norfolk Pines

In 1879, residents turned their attention to the appearance of Kiama, specifically the reserve in Terralong Street opposite the commercial precinct (today's Hindmarsh Park).

As previously mentioned, the area was once dissected by a stream which ran through the park to Black Beach and provided a convenient town water supply for the colonials.

But as early as the 1860s the water was being reported as becoming putrid, leading one to concur that water was not only collected from a well along this point, but sewage cans were also emptied here, downstream.

In July, 1879, one "Ex-resident's" Letter to the *Kiama Independent* added to public debate about the state of the area.

"...along Terralong-street from the Presbyterian Church to Collins-street, there is that odious and pestiferous sewer, known as the water reserve. This, more than half one side of one of the best business streets in town, is a useless blank, unsuitable for the purpose for which it was reserved, nearly valueless as a source of income to the Municipal Council and a barrier to the progress of Kiama as a town."

Soon after this letter was published, the Kiama Improvement Committee, on behalf of Kiama Council, announced plans for the improvement of local reserves.

"...It is intended to enclose all the front portion of the Terralong Street...with a paling fence which will exclude animals small as well as large, and to plant this space with trees of three kinds, viz: Moreton Bay Fig, Norfolk Island Pine and Tasmanian Blue Gum." *Kiama Independent*, July 29, 1879

Lighting

A major advance - in July 1879, a movement was set in motion to "...have the most frequented parts of our streets lighted during a portion of those nights when there is no moon available".

HOW TO GET RICH

"The secret of getting rich, I take it, lies in a nutshell: 'Spend less than you earn'. A man who sees to it that he does that, at the end of every week, month and year, will be sure to get ahead... The average small settler begins with very little money, or credit. Almost all of his capital is in his person. He works for a few years, and saves his money. When he has a few hundred pounds, he buys a farm on the outskirts of a township, puts up a small, plain house, marries a prudent woman, and goes to housekeeping. She does not indulge in carpets, or butterfly bonnets and things to match, but she works as steadily as her husband and pays her way. She is ready for any kind of woman's work... If the average colonist can have a carpet and fine furniture without taking another man's money to pay for them, let him have them. But if he cannot afford it, bare floors will not hurt honest men's feet."

Kiama Independent, March 17, 1870

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Society, daily life & temperance

Temperance vs Alcohol

The regulation of public houses ('pubs') was a major thrust throughout the colony during the 1870s - initiated to curb the prevalence of drunkenness and alcoholism. In Kiama, the campaign received almost feverish support.

As was learned from our first millennium supplement, drunkenness contributed to many of the court cases heard in Kiama, while frequent editorials commented on the social evils resulting from alcohol abuse, the subsequent moral decay and the stress brought to bare on families.

This mood gave rise to various community groups that were committed to the sole purpose of outlawing alcohol either totally or to a greater extent. And every member of the family was targeted.

Local groups included the Sons and Daughters of Temperance - branches of the Sons of Temperance, a Kiama branch of the Daughters of Temperance, a Band of Hope (established by the Sons of Temperance to target children), and the Kiama Total Abstinence Society.

Judging from the principal aims, as outlined in the *Kiama Independent* on February 10, 1870, the Temperance movement operated as a colonial form of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The aims:- to encourage the "total abstinence from all intoxicating drink as a beverage; to provide medical attendance for members, their wives and families; the provision of £1 per week as sick allowance to any member in illness; and assuring the sum of £20 to be paid to the widow of any member upon his death; and £10 to any member on the death of his wife".

Membership of the Kiama group at its formation in February 1869, was regarded as modest (32), but ballooned to 81 in the midst of a colony-wide push to regulate hotels.

The campaign came to a head with a "Permissive Liquor Law" being proposed for the colony which regulated the distribution of public-houses and the traffic of fermented and spirituous liquors. Meetings were subsequently called by the Sons of Temperance to discuss the proposed bill.

At a meeting of residents held in Kiama in

August 1870, it was resolved: "That in the opinion of this meeting, much of the crime, lunacy, pauperism and many other evils in the colony originate from indulgence of intoxicating liquors".

Also carried was a recommendation by Rev J Kinross "That in the opinion of this meeting, the enactment of the projected Permissive Liquor Law would tend to lessen the evils arising from intemperance".

By June 1878, the temperance movement was still a force to be reckoned with, the local community meeting to protest the issue of additional licences for the sale of spirituous liquor in Kiama, beyond the existing two establishments.

The campaign was aided by the Liquor Licence Amendment Association which proposed, among other things, that the ratepayers should be given the jurisdiction to decide how many hotels they wanted in each town.

Amid the groundswell, Kiama businessman, Luke Clancy, almost sparked a public lynching when, in May 1879, he applied to the Kiama Licensing Court for a licence to open a third hotel - in Terralong Street.

Society/Daily Life

In the 1870s, Kiama appeared to be becoming more 'cultured'. This was evidenced not only in the opening of local libraries, but in the number of stores which sold products beyond the usual staples.

In January 1870, the *London Portrait Studio* opened in Manning Street, offering portraits in oils at the rate of five guineas each. An advertisement in the *Kiama Independent* read that the studio was "The first of its kind in Kiama" and offered "the requisite quietness, privacy, freedom from wind, and a good light".

In August 1874, commerce is furthered with the opening of a branch of the City Bank. At Gerringong, the latest happenings included the arrival of a new post-master.

"GERRINGONG - ... We have now got a new post-master and storekeeper, in place of Mr T O'Brien, who has found it expedient to try some other mode of making his fortune. Not a few will regret the departure of Mr O'Brien, who was deservedly esteemed for his obliging disposition and sterling honesty. His successor is Mr S Major, recently of Jamberoo, who is a man known to possess rather more than ordinary talent for business, notwithstanding the fact that there are four other stores in the village." *Kiama Independent*, March 10, 1870

The local Volunteer Corps continued in each of the townships with regular drills and parades.

"VOLUNTEER ITEMS - ... The marksmen's badges for the three best shots of last year have been received. The device is that of the crossed rifles on a scarlet ground. They are to be worn till the 9th of February next; and the three members of the company who are entitled to them are Messrs T McCaffrey, H Honey and J Weston."

Kiama Independent
March 10, 1870

Snakes were still a local scourge, although their presence was not as widely reported as the 1860s, probably due to the widespread clearing of more populated areas.

The visit to Kiama's shores by whales has never ceased to inspire awe and it is a tradition that continues to this day. It is a reflection of our modern-day conservationist sympathies, however, that sees our sensitivities offended by the colonial's response to such 'visits'.

"SEAL TAKEN - A few days since a large grey seal was observed lying on the beach at Gerringong, apparently uninjured and without any circumstances to account for its standing. It was despatched, we understand, by George Davis and others, and proved to be about nine feet in length. The skin was procured by Mr D, and the carcase appropriated by his



• These ladies relax at "The Valley", Wyalla Falls, Jamberoo.

companions, who extracted a considerable quantity of oil from it."

Kiama Independent
October 31, 1872

In 1875, Kiama township had at its disposal a supply of fresh vegetables - thanks to the establishment of a local market garden.

"MARKET GARDENING - The town of Kiama is apparently about to be supplied with a veritable market garden. Three gentlemen of the Flowery Land have rented from G Fuller Esq a paddock fronting Shoalhaven Street, intersected by a creek, and containing, we believe, about two acres and a half, with the intention of converting it into a garden for the production of those vegetables for which the town of Kiama may be expected to furnish a regular market."

Kiama Independent
March 11, 1875

Having weathered storms and floods, the local community, Jamberoo in particular, was beset by a drought in 1876.

"JAMBEROO - The long continued drought is now telling severely on the herds of some of the settlers of the district. I understand that Mr James Hukins has already lost some 15 or 16 head of stock - cows, horses and bullocks."

Kiama Independent, March 16, 1876

It is common knowledge that the 'Bone Yard' at Kiama Downs was so named because of the early farming habit of throwing dead livestock off the side of the local cliffs (both at this point and along the length of the local

coastline), but not all carcasses were farewelled to a watery grave.

"MORE DEAD CARCASSES - Complaints have been made to us during the past month, to the effect that putrid carrion is allowed to remain in close proximity to some of the public thoroughfares of this town... In the present instance we are informed that certain of our citizens summarily dispose of the carcasses of domestic animals by depositing them beneath their neighbour's boundary fences. This proving offensive to the olfactory organs of the aggrieved, the late owner was advised on the propriety of removing the noxious infectants, and thereupon promptly deposited the same in an adjoining creek where more than one of his neighbours are concerned, as to their daily supply of water." *Kiama Independent*, April 20, 1877

Kiama Pilot's Cottage

With the opening of the Kiama Harbour, Kiama's shipping industry thrived.

In December, 1879, tenders were called for a "Pilot's Station" and residence to be built on Blowhole Point.

The cottage was to be built of rubble stone and would contain "six good-sized rooms with a verandah all round and a detached kitchen".

The *Kiama Independent*, in announcing the tender on December 9, said that the cottage would "not only prove a great convenience to our friend Mr Tulloch (the Kiama Pilot), but will form a handsome addition to Blowhole Point".

Kiama Hospital

It is puzzling that, with all the development that took place in Kiama during the 1870s, a public hospital was not among the list of projects.

Earnest moves to establish a hospital were not made, in fact, until 1886. But the first call for such an institution came, we believe, as early as August, 1870, when a letter to the editor, written by Jamberoo man, Phillip Bailey, was published in the *Kiama Independent*.

At this time, the Illawarra was serviced by just one hospital - at Wollongong. One could only imagine the frustration and suffering of such a difficult journey for a patient lingering on death's doorstep.

"HOSPITAL FOR KIAMA - Sir - Will you kindly allow me to call the attention of the public to an unsupplied want in this district, which is daily more and more felt throughout it... I allude to the urgent need of a hospital to be situated in or near Kiama. How many cases occur in which regular medical attendance, and skillful and efficient nursing, are quite beyond the reach of the sufferers in their own homes; and yet are essential to their recovery; while the distance from Wollongong renders it a matter of danger and difficulty and, sometimes, an utter impossibility to convey them thither... There are no doubt difficulties in the way, but difficulties can be overcome when willing hearts and hands are set to work... if all gave something according to their ability, the building would soon crown one of our breezy hills - an ornament to the town... Phillip Richard Spry Bailey."

The *Independent*, in addressing Mr Bailey's letter, supported the call for a local hospital for "those cases of accident or sickness (of destitute or comparatively poor persons) which might render such a resource desirable". It was also pointed out that a building for the purpose of a hospital need not be constructed, as "Some building already in existence might be found to answer the purpose for a time."

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Religion, community & sport

Sport & Leisure

The annual Queen's Birthday celebrations was highlighted by a day of sports. Members of the aboriginal community were invited to participate, and famed local athlete, 'King' Mickey Johnson, was included in the line-up.

"PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS - On Saturday last, the athletic sports, which had been originally advertised to take place on the Queen's Birthday, but post-poned in consequence of the unfavourable weather, came off very successfully on the reserve near the Episcopalian Church... 1st race Maiden Plate, 150 yards for all persons residing within the police district of Kiama. First prize £2. For this race there were the following entrancers, viz:- WC King, Downes (a 'darkey'), Johnson (a 'darkey'), C Hetherington and J. Sharpe. The winner of the first prize was the 'darkey' Downes." Kiama Independent, June 1870

The Kiama branch of the Australian Cricket Club, established in 1869, was in a state of collapse by mid-1872, its success impeded by lack of membership. The game was given new impetus when "scholars of the public school" endeavoured to revive the local game with a team.

On February 8, 1873, the Kiama United Cricket Club was formed at a meeting held at the Steam Packet Inn. At the time, it was noted that attempts had been made over the years to get a club going, but this had failed because "there had not been the unity of action or materials within the district".

In August, 1879, a skating rink established at the Kiama Temperance Hall is reported "fairly well-patronised" with "several of our local youths becoming adept at this healthy and amusing past-time".

Community Organisations

Community groups came and went during

the 1870s, and organisations which enjoyed a strong following included the Mutual Improvement Society, Loyal Orange Lodge and Loyal Star of the South Lodge of Oddfellows (established August, 1879).

"GERRINGONG - The usual fortnightly meeting of the Literary and Debating Society was held on Monday night... A very excellent, carefully written, and well arranged essay on 'Diamonds and diamond mines' was read by Mr John Miller... A lecture was then delivered by the Rev President, the Vice-president, R. Miller Esq, JP, in the chair: subject - 'What language was spoken in Palestine at the time of the Christian era?' I need hardly state that the subject was handled in a masterly manner." Kiama Independent, May 31, 1870

Two key community groups were formed in the municipality in 1870 - the Sons of Temperance at Jamberoo in February (Kiama and Gerringong branches were already in operation), and the Daughters of Temperance in April.

In January of that year, a public meeting was held to establish interest in forming of a Band of Hope - a society for children which contributed to the "moral and social well-being of the rising generations of the district" (Kiama Independent, January 1870).

The meeting was addressed by Rev Mr Hill who "related some instances of the evil effects of intemperance which had come under his own observation", and strongly recommended the formation of the society. His call was answered in February 1870, when more than 100 children swelled the ranks of the newly-formed chapter.

A Masonic lodge of the order of Freemasons was established in Kiama on July 5, 1871, at a meeting held in the rooms attached to the Kiama Courthouse. This was followed by an inauguration banquet at George Adam's Hotel and attended by Provincial Grand Master JS Farnell Esq, MLA, and 14 members of the new lodge.

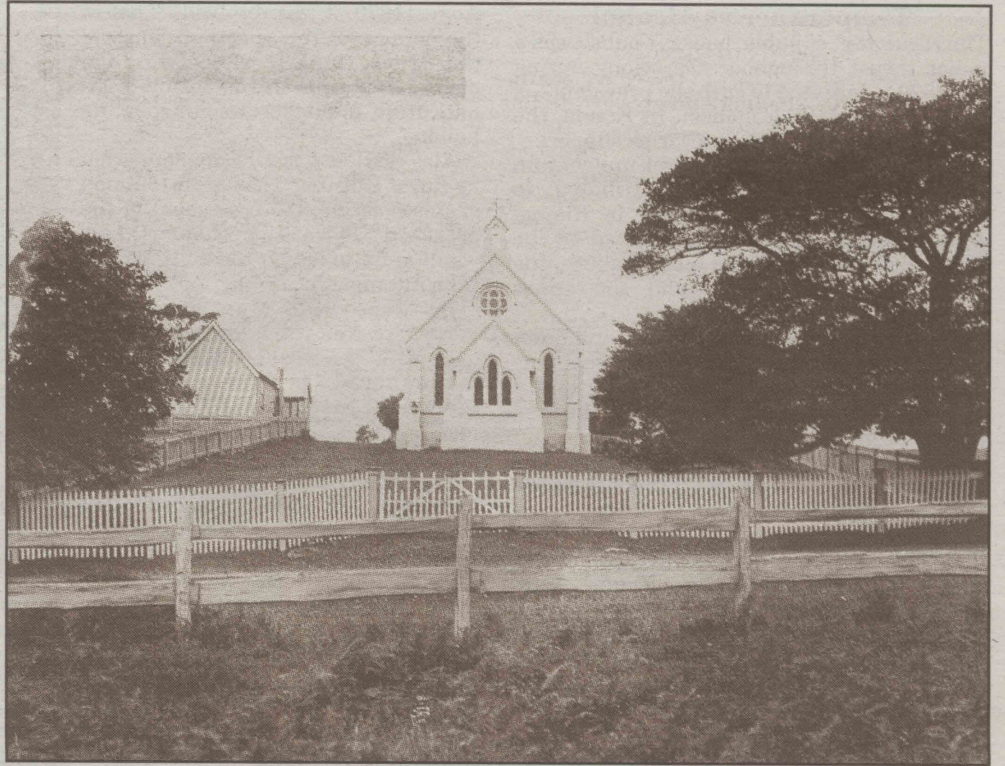
In March 1872, the Kiama Working Men's Political Association was formed at a meeting held in the Agricultural Shed and attended by 100 men. The object of the organisation was "to obtain honest representation, good government and substantial justice to the humbler classes". Forty-seven men signed up for membership.

The Kiama Glee Club was established in 1876 at the initiation of the Rev RH Kelly, its purpose being to make concert appearances for both public enjoyment and fundraising initiatives.

The foundation stone of the Kiama Temperance Hall, located on the east side of Collins Street, was laid on March 9, 1876, before a crowd of between 400 and 500 people. The finished building, which cost £780 to construct, was officially opened two years later in April 1878, by the GWP of the South Coast Grand Division Sons of Temperance, James Cawdell Esq. This was followed by a luncheon, dinner and evening concert.

Religion

Wesleyan bazaars were a regular



• An early picture of the Gerringong Congregational Church.

fund-raiser for the church. Aside from the sale of "fancy goods" and refreshments, the bazaars featured an auction of livestock including pigs, cattle and poultry, together with fruit trees, tubs and wheelbarrows. The following bazaar, held in November 1870, is significant in that it assisted with the final liquidation of a debt owed on the Kiama church.

"WESLEYAN BAZAAR - The bazaar was held in the Wesleyan School-room. The weather, we are sorry to say, was not the most auspicious; for on the day and night preceding the bazaar, there was a considerable fall of rain and, on Thursday, the sky looked so threatening that very few of the country friends ventured from their homes... A large table, extending nearly the whole way across the upper end of the building, was covered with fancy and other articles... The ladies (Misses Black and Kendall) who had charge of the refreshment tables, were kept pretty busy... We understand the proceeds of the bazaar amount to something over £80, which is sufficient to extinguish the church debt and leave a surplus in hand." Kiama Independent, November 3, 1870

On November 24 1870, the Kiama Independent reported on a series of services connected with the opening of a new Wesleyan Church at Gerringong. Also included was a lecture on 'the Friendly Islands' by Rev Watkins and the introduction of Christianity to that region.

The following day, Rev Watkins preached to a large audience, after which the parishioners "repaired to the old church building where the ladies had provided an ample supply of good things". The gathering of 270 people proved too big for the building, however, and the refreshments had to be served in two shifts.

Following the luncheon, a public meeting was held under the presidency of Mr R Miller Esq JP, who announced that the new church had cost £420, of which £320 had already been raised.

"...The building is of stone (rubble) with a shingled roof and occupies a nice elevation near the residence of the late Mr James Wilson. The building, which is an ornament to the locality, is highly creditable to the Wesleyans." Kiama Independent, November 24, 1870

Difficult as it might be to believe today, the community of Toolijooa in the 1800s was as much a thriving place as Jamberoo with a well-attended school and homes dotting the local landscape.

"DIVINE SERVICE AT TOOLIJOOA - The beautiful and sequestered valley of Toolijooa - about two miles from Gerringong, now appears more

picturesque than ever since the lands given by the Messrs Berry have been covered with buildings, flower gardens and playgrounds for the benefit of the non-vested public school under the superintendence of Mr McNab. It is highly gratifying to state that public worship has been begun there, and will, we trust, be continued from time to time. The Wesleyan minister was first to hold divine service at Toolijooa, the Congregational minister next, the Presbyterian, Episcopalian, the Baptist and others will, time after time in succession, have an open door and open Bible for their special for the time being." Kiama Independent, August 31, 1871

In August 1874, Kiama played host to the Bishop of Sydney who visited for the primary purpose of opening the new Church of England at Gerringong. Given the initial Bishop's address in Kiama, he would not be overly impressed by today's school system.

"CHURCH OF ENGLAND - The Bishop of Sydney arrived by steamer on Saturday last, and was the guest of T Chapman Esq, Hartwell House. On the afternoon of the same day, His Lordship held a meeting in Christ Church, at which a considerable number of the leading members of the Church of England were present... In the course of his remarks, he referred to the present movement for educational reform; and pronounced most emphatically against any education without religion. He hoped the same would never come when the education of our children should be of an exclusively secular nature... The principal object of the Bishop's visit was to preach in connection with the opening of the new church at Gerringong. This church has been built in the place of the old one destroyed in the great fire at Gerringong some two years since. It was built by Messrs Walker & Sons, of Kiama... and cost about £470... The material is rubble stone for the walls, and the style is Norman." Kiama Independent, August 13, 1874

The Presbyterian Church, Jamberoo, was officially on January 26, 1876, "the anniversary day of the colony" and in the presence of 1500 hundred people.

The service was conducted by Dr White, of Sydney, and was followed by a "monster" tea meeting held under a large, outdoor marquee, and a public meeting.

In April 1878, Kiama's Roman Catholic Church of St Peter presented a valedictory address to the Rev Father Matthew Keogan who, "after a zealous discharge of his pastoral duties" in Kiama for the previous seven years, was relocating to Europe on the advice of his doctors, on account of his health being "in a precarious state".

Present at the testimonial was Father Keogan's successor, Rev Father Hayes.

Following the address, Mr Thomas McIntyre sen, on behalf of the congregation, presented Father Keogan with a purse of 200 sovereigns.

In August, 1879, the Jamberoo Roman Catholic Church was opened.

The cost of the construction was £1753 of which £1270 was raised by way of parish donations and funds raised at the official opening.

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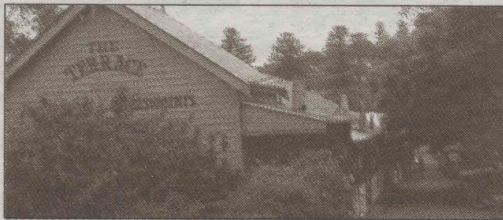
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Agriculture - Butter

Agriculture

The references to rust in the wheat continued in the 1870s, spelling a progressive decline in the crop. At Jamberoo in November 1871, the crops were so infested with rust, most were converted to hay. Crops of oats, rye and young corn, however, were noted as "looking well".

Nevertheless, the crop was still being grown at the close of the 1870s, as was evidenced by an upgrade of the Kiama Steam Flour Mill in Terralong Street which had produced "really fine flour" as a result of the improvements.

The cane crop was not so 'plagued' by misfortune, but it was noted in one item that the crop had not been taken up by many of the local farmers, despite its apparent, initial success.

The exportation of butter, however, was gaining increasing enthusiasm.

Butter exportation

The 1860s closed with a proposed export of local butter to Britain for sale. Despite the ambitious nature of the project, and suggestions the produce would never survive the journey, local farmers proved keen to bring the project to fruition.

Butter was available in the Kiama and Shellharbour districts in plentiful supply, but its over-abundance resulted in extremely low prices in the colonial market.

In 1869-70, the prospect of obtaining an extended market was given great impetus after a history-making shipment of Kiama butter, provided by John Colley and Mr Grey (Christian name unstated), was sent to the East Indies.

In a letter to Mr Colley, Sydney merchant, Augustus Morris, reported that the butter had made it safely to the East Indies and back, thus indicating hope for a similar success with Britain.

As can be seen from Morris's letter, the butter's successful shipment was aided by a high salt content. The item also provides an outline of the method of shipping.

"My dear Sir - Your keg of butter which I sent to Galle by the Avoca has been returned, and on opening it I found it to be perfectly sound. It has gone through so severe a test that, as the purser of the Avoca says, 'it will go ten times round the world uninjured'. No doubt it is, as you are aware, highly salted - more so than I think at all necessary for butter to be shipped to London... Mr Grey's, which I sent packed in bladders, appears to have even more flavour than yours. I am sure that butter only slightly salted can be sent to London in bladders or sheep's paunches... Yours very truly, Augustus Morris" Kiama Independent, February 10, 1870

Two shipments of butter were also sent by Captain Samuel Charles during this period, he reporting that the cargo had arrived with "little or no deterioration" and that, at a dinner party, his "Australian butter" had "the preference".

Inspired by these successes, a public meeting was held at the Kiama Courthouse in October 1870, to establish a butter export company. More than 100 farmers and residents were present.

Mayor, John Marks, said that the aim of the project was to "save the district, raising the price of its principal product by sending the surplus to where it was wanted, to form a



• The road to Jamberoo - not always the safest of journeys, especially for farmers endeavouring to cart their dairy and other farm produce to Kiama Harbour for shipment. Many an injury was recorded after commuters were thrown from their carts on the rough roads.

company for shipping butter to England". He said that it was apparent the district made more butter than was wanted in the colony and a new market was required.

Captain Charles said that he was firmly convinced of the necessity to send the butter "home", particularly at times of the year when the Sydney market was saturated and what little Kiama butter was taken up, was sold as grease at a cost of 3d (three cents) per pound.

The same butter could fetch a price of 6d to 10d (six to 10 cents) if sent to England - the same price being fetched by New Zealand butter.

He said that the major problem to overcome was that of shipment. As most vessels carried wool, the butter was inclined to overheat and spoil. On those vessels which contained two decks, however, where the lower deck carried hides, copper and or tallow, the butter had a better chance of arriving in good condition.

An additional benefit was that England's usual supply of butter from Europe was being impeded by the Franco-Prussian war.

Captain Charles recommended that "a company now be formed, to be called the Kiama Butter Company, with unlimited capital, in shares of £1 (\$2.50) each". The recommendation was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Mr DL Dymock said that not less than £500 was required to start the company and recommended that shares of £1 each be made available to the public. The list of shares was opened and 124 were taken up in the space of a few minutes.

A management committee was then formed, it consisting of Messrs S Charles, GK Waldron, G Adams, G Gray, ME Robson, GJ Hindmarsh, R Cunyngame and Mr G Tate. Treasurer, Mr TJ Fuller; secretary, Mr R Cunyngame.

Weekly meetings of the management committee were held and, on November 7, a shipment of five tons of butter was sent to London.

Taking no chances, the shipment was personally escorted to Sydney by Captain Charles who also oversaw the "proper" reshipment of the butter to London.

Encouraged by these developments, local businessman, RF Jay, rented part of the former steam flour mill - located in Terralong Street and belonging to 'Mr Taylor' - for the purpose of receiving and packing butter for large-scale exportation. Freezing apparatus had already been ordered.

Despite high hopes, a letter sent by agents Merry, Willis and Lloyd, from England in May, 1871, to a member of the Central Illawarra Butter Company, did not bring good news.

It said that the Australian butter was not arriving in England in good condition and compared unfavourably with that supplied by Sweden, France and Germany. As a consequence, much of it was left sitting in the market place, for want of a buyer.

The butter agent suggested the Australia suppliers find a better way of manufacturing, cleansing, preserving and packaging their produce to ensure it arrived in better condition. "It is suggested that the butter might arrive in better condition if packed in small quantities, and these again packed in hogsheads with salt, which would keep the butter cool and free from taint." Kiama Independent, May 25, 1871

In enquiring about the fate of their own butter shipment, the Kiama Butter Company were kept in suspense until July 1871, when it was reported that the produce had arrived during a saturated market and was not attracting much at sale.

In a communication from London

agents, Gilchrist and Watt, the farmers are told that large casks of butter which arrived on the *Zermindar* (including that belonging to Samuel Charles) had an "unfortunate beery smell". It added that "some of the butter turns out rather milky" and suggested that this be remedied by further churning. Butter sent on the *Martha Birnie*, meantime, had barely been cleared.

Complaints to an agent in London that not enough was being done to market the butter were met with an indignant response. "...butter does not stand the test of unpacking and is useless as an 'article of food'", the agent replied in a letter which was published on April 17, 1873.

The news could not have been more crushing for the local farmers who were left with no alternative but to perfect their method of production and shipping. Adding to the farmers' woes was that the Sydney market had also started to deteriorate.

Butter supplies from the Illawarra were reported as being "rancid" and "runny", especially during summer when the cargo was left to sit at the docks before being dispersed. A process of blame ensued and fingers were pointed at everyone from the farmers to the shipping staff.

The Echo reported that "There is nothing much to boast of in the supply of butter to Sydney in the summertime...it is really surprising how long the householders have tolerated it". To counteract the problem, the local farmers gathered to investigate a means of establishing a central market and storage area in the 'metropolis' (Sydney) to handle the sale of their dairy products.

The rights of women in Victorian Society

In 1870, the women's Suffragette movement was some 40 years off being a force to be reckoned with, making the groundbreaking speech of one young English woman in May of that year all the more significant.

Lady Amberly's speech was representative of not only the thoughts stirring in the minds of progressive women, but provided a picture of the place of, and attitude to, women in Victorian society.

Three years later, a similar address is delivered at the Waterloo Congregational Church by the Rev William Bradley, suggesting the dramatic change was afoot.

LADY AMBERLY ON THE CLAIMS OF WOMEN - A large audience composed principally of ladies, gathered in the Stroud Subscription Rooms to listen to a lecture on the claims of women delivered

by Lady Amberly, daughter-in-law of Lord Russell. She first begged the indulgence of her hearers in that she was wholly unaccustomed to public speaking and then told them that the intensity of her convictions had caused her to come forward, saying to those who regarded such conduct as unwomanly that feeling without action was little better than a millstone hung around the neck. She admitted that logical argument had been comparatively useless to induce men to recognise the equality of the sexes, and said that her appeal on women's behalf would be rather to the feeling than to the intellect, expressing a hope that she might be able to do something to hasten the time when women should have full scope to employ all her faculties and energies and when, in the eyes of the law, she would be equal with

man.... She required, first, the restoration to girls of the privileges due to them under many educational endowments; next, that equal privileges with boys should be afforded them for attaining the highest education; thirdly, that all professions should be open to them; fourthly, should no longer be debarred from the separate ownership of property; fifthly, that a widow should be recognised by law as the only natural guardian of her children; sixthly, that the franchise should be extended to women, seventhly, that political interest and work should be open equally to them; eighthly, that public opinion should sanction for women every occupation good and suited to their strength; ninthly, that there should be no legal subordination in marriage; and, tenthly, that the same wages should be given for the same work."

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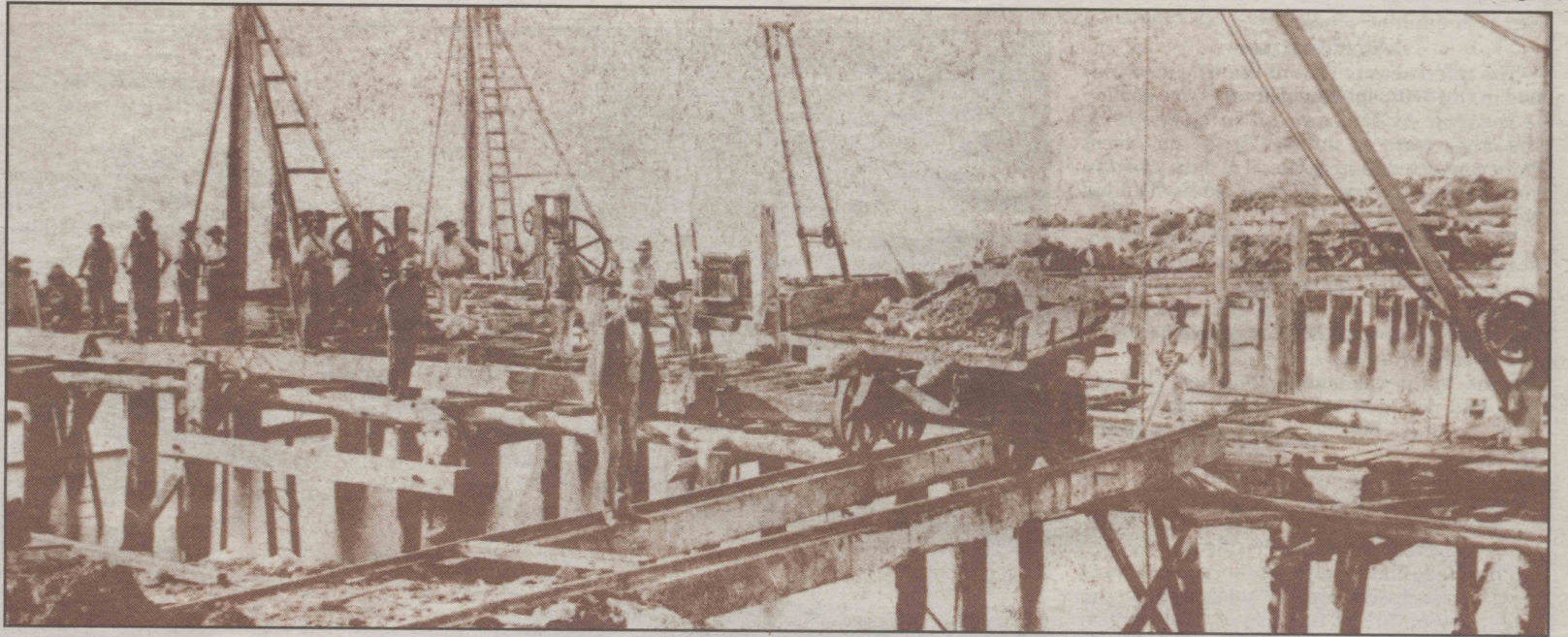
Kiama Harbour opens - at last!

It would come as no surprise that, given the track record of the Kiama Harbour project, 1870 opened with yet another delay in the progress of the development.

The saga had become so "wearisome and drawn-out" that when, in April, the Government voted £9300 for the completion of the work, the *Kiama Independent* commented wryly: "As for ever seeing the works completed, we suppose we must leave that, as Lord Bacon did his name and memory - 'to the next age'".

In the ensuing months, the project continued to proceed in a stop-start fashion, hampered by wage disputes and other delays including the near-fatal accident of a diver.

"NARROW ESCAPE - On Friday morning last, one of the divers employed on the Kiama Harbour Works, Mr John Madden, while following his vocation under water, narrowly escaped death by suffocation. An important matter in the use of the ordinary diving dress and helmet is the maintenance, under water, of an equilibrium. The weight necessary to keep a diver at the bottom is something like 120 pounds. One half of this is attached to the boots and the other, composed of two leaden weights - is attached to the diving dress... Madden proceeded



• Building the Cofferdam for the excavation of Kiama Harbour about 1870.

on his hands and knees to clear out the hole and, having done so, essayed to regain his feet, but unfortunately, one of the drills, passing through the cord which secured the weight between his shoulders held his head down... Though somewhat alarmed, he

retained his self possession and ability to give the necessary signal to 'heave up'. This signal would appear to have been misinterpreted as some tools were twice sent down to him."

Kiama Independent
August 10, 1871

In October 1872, the completed coffer dam was put to the test. Twelve feet of water was successfully emptied from the excavation with just one "insignificant leakage" being shown.

"There can be no doubt that the resident engineer, Mr Anderson, is entitled to the highest credit for the solid and scientific construction of the dam." *Kiama Independent*, October 24, 1872

But the drainage project confirmed a growing concern - that the harbour was not deep enough.

Wollongong's recently completed harbour was already found to be too shallow and "afforded so little accommodation that hardly any business could be done there" (*Kiama Independent*, October 31, 1872). Large colliers were being forced to wait until high tide to berth in the harbour.

The meeting moved to rectify the situation in their own harbour before a problem occurred. It was believed that the newly-completed coffer dam at Kiama should be deepened to contain at least 18 to 20 feet at low tide.

Of particular concern was that the harbour would not be deep enough to allow the admission of vessels to take away deposits of coal - as had been witnessed at Wollongong.

As early as the 1860s, the development of a coal industry in Kiama was anticipated and coal seams on Saddleback Mountain and at Jamberoo were targeted for excavation.

Ultimately, the industry did not

progress beyond the opening of two seams in the 1880s. Until this point, though, the potential of the industry played a role in the decision-making process of the Kiama Harbour.

Captain Samuel Charles moved that the Government be urged to enlarge and deepen the basin of the Kiama Harbour and that an additional £20,000 be requested for the project. His motion was carried and a deputation was sought with the Minister for Works.

While the official opening of Kiama Harbour was to be held on September 13, 1876 (but postponed, on account of a storm, to September 20, 1876 - see inset), it was opened in an unofficial capacity almost three weeks prior, with the admission of water into the basin.

The basin was named 'Robertson', in recognition of the early efforts by the former member of the Legislative Assembly, Mr Robertson, to have the harbour project activated, but this was, apparently, not a popular choice.

"...inconvenience or extra labour is likely to be caused by the irregular proceedings of the basin itself which was, perhaps, indignant that the not very reputable name of Robertson was to be inflicted upon it." *Kiama Independent*, September 5, 1876

In May 1878, the last of the works to deepen the channel of the entrance to Kiama Harbour was struck, the *Kiama Independent* reporting that the "whole work forms a highly creditable piece of marine engineering".

Official opening

Kiama Harbour was officially opened on Wednesday, September 20, 1876, but it proved a bittersweet affair. Rather than wax lyrical about the auspiciousness of the occasion as was the custom for such affairs, the *Kiama Independent* opened its coverage with an airing of grievances on behalf of the Kiama community.

The fact that the basin took 16 years to construct - along with its many associated headaches - did not sit well.

Nor did the organising committee's decision to exclude much of the community from most of the celebration by marking the event with a sit-down dinner and luncheon - with admission restricted to those who could afford "the high price" of a ticket.

It was also felt that a representative of the monarchy should have performed the official opening; but the honour was instead assigned to a "political party leader", the Minister for Public Works, the Hon John Lackay.

"OPENING OF THE KIAMA BASIN"

The opening of the Kiama Basin - the official opening - took place at length of Wednesday last; and although the occasion may perhaps prove the commencement of an era of increased wealth and importance to the town of Kiama and its surrounding districts, should the anticipated development of the coal trade take place, it can hardly be affirmed, we suspect, that they day will be remembered with any particular gratification... We are merely mentioning a fact, which we have no disposition to exaggerate when

we say that a large amount of dissatisfaction is felt and expressed that the culmination of a labour of sixteen years should have resolved itself into such a 'lame and impotent conclusion'."

Four vessels visited the harbour, conveying visitors for the occasion - the Government steamer *Ajax*, the Illawarra Steam Navigation Company's boat the *Hunter*, the *Illalong* and the Shellharbour Steam Navigation Company's *Dairymaid*.

"...The number of persons who assembled on the occasion was large and might be compared to the usual gathering at the annual show, though there was much less to be seen... The *Kiama* Volunteers mustered at considerable force and the public band contributed at intervals to the general amusement till the inaugural ceremony was over when they adjourned to Mr Bullen's. The ceremony in question was but brief; and was destined to be performed from the deck of the *Hunter* as she lay at her berth... The Mayor of Kiama, J Black Esq, presently appeared on an elevated part of the steamer's side and announced that the meeting would be addressed by the Minister for Works, and the basin christened by Miss Charles. The bottle containing the ceremonial wine was accordingly consigned to its fate by the hands of that young lady, and its melancholy neck left dangling over the deep from the extremity of its improvised gallows - the shouts of the spectators arising by way of requiem."

A luncheon on the *Hunter* for invited guests ensued, followed by a dinner that evening at the Kiama Court-house.



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The Colonial Diet

THE colonial diet would have no doubt consisted of soups, 'stews' and casseroles originating from the various homelands of the settlers, together with fresh farm produce, fish (especially on Friday in accordance with religious custom) and cured meat products.

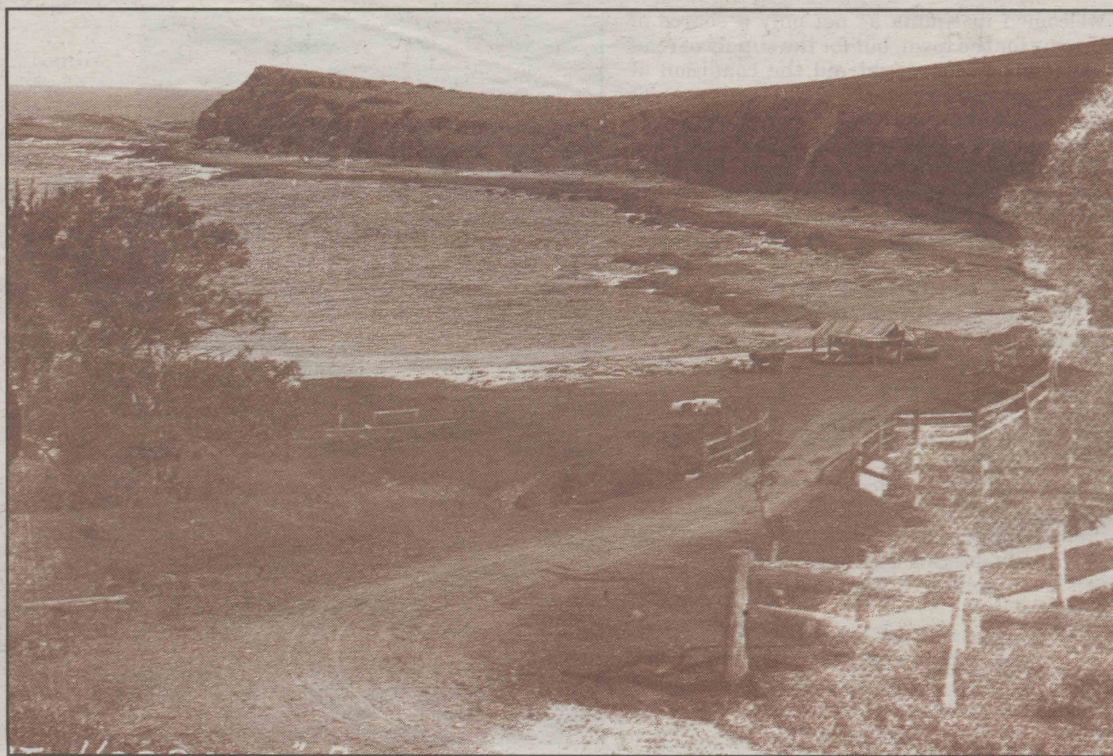
While the diet was not directly spelt out in the annals of the *Kiama Independent* (like today, food hardly rates a mention as a news item), classified advertising and the Kiama Show schedules provide a valuable insight into what was to be had, locally.

Dairy products such as cheese and butter were an obvious inclusion together with eggs, bread and sweet, home-made treats such as jams, puddings, scones, cakes and biscuits.

Basically, the food intake was not unlike that of today, the only difference being the heavy processing, colourings, flavourings, preservatives and pesticides of the modern diet.

On the plus side of today's diet, food poisoning would not have been as prevalent. In 1890s an item in the *Kiama Independent* promoted a new dairy container which helped keep butter clear of dirt and flies.

Although, owing to the absence of refrigeration, most food consumed by the colonial would have been either fresh, preserved or out of the question.



• Boat Harbour at Gerringong - before the jetty was constructed. Residents campaigned for many years to have the Government finance the jetty project.

Fruits

A pavilion schedule of the 1867 Kiama Show lists a comprehensive range of fruits including black and white grapes, oranges, lemons, apples, pears, quinces, peaches, nectarines, plums, figs, rhubarb, mulberries, raspberries, rock melon, water melon and bananas.

A comment in the *Kiama Independent*, noting the reluctance of residents to grow fruit, suggests that these fruits would not have been available in large quantities, but it does show the broad spectrum of tastes available to the colonial palate.

Fruits were also available for sale in the local stores, but were either dried or bottled. Produce listed for sale at the Kiama store owned by George Bullen in January 1870, included: - currants, elmes, sultanas, muscatelles, figs, dried apples, Jordan almonds, soft shell almonds, Barcelona nuts, bottled fruits and pickles.

Vegetables

From the same Show schedule, vegetables included:- potatoes, cabbage, onions, turnips, parsnips, carrots, cucumbers, gherkins, beans, peas, marrow, pumpkin, herbs, chillies, celery, arrowroot and sugar cane.

Meat

On the whole, there was little the Kiama resident did without when it came to meat. Meats available included beef, ham, bacon, chicken, duck, turkey, geese and muscovy (a breed of poultry). English hams were available for sale from Bullen's.

Others

Bullens stocked a range of stewing and baking products such as cinnamon, ginger, black pepper, nutmegs, candied peel, caraway seeds, cloves, mixed spice, tapioca, sago, rice, pearl barley and oatmeal.

Salt - being a valuable ingredient in the curing process - was sold in great quantities and was available in fine, coarse and 'salt-petre' varieties. Sardines, salad oil, tea and 'good coffee' was also available.

General grocery items:- Colonial Soap, washing soda, carbonate soda, Best Washing Blue, white starch, Day and Martin's Blacking, sperm candles, moulds and kerosene oil.

Hardware:- wire nails, No 4 sickles, No 4 hooks, scythes, FFF powder, common caps, Walker's patent shot, glazed blasting powder, 'fuze' wire and Ellwell fized hoes.

Medicine

In our first supplement, we addressed the number of maladies supposedly relieved/healed by the cure-all, *Holloways Pills and Ointment*.

From the list below, published in the *Kiama Independent* in January 1870, we are privy to other medicinal/remedial products of the time.

While some items such as Friar's Balsam and castor oil are easily identified, one could only hazard a guess at the other, more obscure products, their uses and contents.

We can safely assume, though, that the 'miracle' elixirs would blow the lid off a breathalyser while the pill killers would have some opium content.

How to cure a ham

"CURING HAMS - Such readers as have no such convenience as a regularly constructed smoke-house may supply the deficiency in the following manner: 'Dig a narrow pit 12 inches deep, throwing the earth out on one side. From near the bottom of this pit, dig dig a trench of the length of one or two joints of stove pipe at such an angle as will bring the end away from the pit to the surface of the ground. Over the end of this pipe, set a common flour barrel or a large cask, as may be needed, and having removed both heads, bank up all around it with the loose earth so that no smoke can escape at the bottom. Hang in the ham, shoulders &c, using something like a broom handle to run through the strings. Putting a cover on top of the sticks will leave space enough for draught to let the smoke pass freely. Build a smoke fire of corn cobs, damp hard wood, sawdust or fine chips, and you will have a cheap, safe and efficient smoke house with very little trouble."

Moore's Rural, January, 1878

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- Stone sulphur
- Cream tartar
- Chlorodyne
- Infant's preservative
- Friar's Balsam
- Steadman's soothing powders
- Henry's worm powders
- Black sulphur
- Yellow sulphur
- Linseed meal
- De Jayne's expectorant
- Bitter aloes
- Pain killer
- Row's Embrocation
- Redford's Heal-all
- Castor oil
- Holloway's Pills and Ointment

*** **

The Household Remedy

DON'T be without it - as soon as you think about being without food or your bed. You will never know when you will need so sure and sovereign a remedy for burns and scalds. It is also said to be an excellent remedy for sore shoulders and girthgalls on horses. I can't say for the latter, but I can speak for the former. Price 2s (20 cents) a bottle.

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Quarrying, railway, fires

Quarrying

Unlike other industries established in Kiama which were heralded by a great deal of lead-up and community discussion, the blue metal quarry industry appears to have emerged from out of the blue.

We are first told that a sample of blue metal had been collected for testing in July 1870, when three batteries of stone-breaking machinery were delivered.

The next we know, a storage shed and hoppers are being built at the harbour by a company, Larkin & Co, for the purpose of crushing the rock and transporting it to Sydney.

In December 1870, the townsfolk became intrigued by the "gradual rise of a somewhat singular looking structure" on the reserve opposite the Steam Packet Hotel.

Under the heading of "Larkin and Co's Stone-crushing Apparatus" the *Kiama Independent* reported: "...All that was known was that it was to serve as some portion of an establishment for the conversion of the blue volcanic stone, so abundant in the neighbourhood of Kiama, into road metal, with a view to meet the demand which always exists in the metropolis for this commodity... In the rear of the eccentric-looking piled building, Messrs Larkin & Co are now putting up a corrugated iron shed, fully fifty feet long, and within this the steam engine of 12 horse power, with the 'jaws', flywheels, and other machinery pertaining to the battery... It is intended to serve as a reservoir - being capable of holding about 300 tons of metal - and as a hopper, from which, when the basin is ready for the admission of vessels, the materials may be shot into their holds. The wooden walls of this reservoir contain more than 1000 feet of timber..."

The first trial of the apparatus saw a ton of metal successfully crushed before a large and appreciative audience. The new industry was

welcomed in Kiama as not only a source of income for the town, but for the supply of road materials which might aid the condition of local thoroughfares.

A small ship, the *Tim Whiffler*, took the samples to Sydney until, in June, 1871, the *Kiama Independent* reporting the purchase by Larkin & Co of a brigantine, the *Peri*, for the purpose, the blue metal having been freighted to the harbour by means of a tramway.

Railway

Despite the sentiments of some townspeople that Kiama's future lay in shipping and not rail, there was an influential movement in Kiama who disagreed.

In 1873, a committee, comprising John Marks, N Hindmarsh, J Black, GL Fuller, G Bullen, J Somerville, James Robb, J Pike, Dr Tarrant, TJ Fuller, Joseph Weston, Captain Samuel Charles, TS Kendall, J King and James Colley, was formed and met with the aim of encouraging the Government to extend the metropolitan railway line to the South Coast.

At a meeting in October of that year, a petition was circulated for the purpose. Unfortunately, the people's efforts to impress of the Government the need to extend the line was a long and difficult road.

Destructive Fires At Gerringong

Much has been documented about the two devastating fires which razed Terralong Street in 1899, but not so well known is the fire which swept through Gerringong township on Monday, July 2, 1872, taking out "dwelling-houses, shops and other buildings constituting a large proportion of the village of Gerringong".

The fire started in the vicinity of a the farm owned by Andrew Nelson, which was located on Broughton Creek Road, one mile west of the Gerringong township.

It was fanned from tree to tree by strong winds, reaching the town by late evening and avoiding several homes before taking out a barn and hay belonging to Mr A Campbell.

Next was the Lanterrick Hotel and an adjoining building which "the Municipal Council had been accustomed to meeting". Other buildings destroyed included homes, Mr Joseph Perkins' store, the Church of England Certified Denominational School and teacher's residence, a building and new home occupied by town smithy, Mr Chin, a blacksmith's shop occupied by Mr Johnston, and a boot and shoe warehouse occupied by Mr Scott.

It was only through the most energetic efforts of the locals that Stephen Major's store was saved, together with Mr D McLean's cooperage.

At an inquest held just days after the fire, 13-year-old John Nelson, son of Andrew Nelson, deposed that he set fire to a series of stumps on his father's land and that, by three o'clock that afternoon, a strong wind blew up and fanned the fires into a blaze. His neighbour, George Lee, said that he too has



• The early days of Bombo Quarry in about 1870.

set fire to some stumps and had seen them burning as late as the previous Friday.

The coroner, in reviewing the evidence, determined that "the fire originated from some logs which were ignited at some dis-

tance from the township of Gerringong, but that no blame is attributable to anyone".

Meantime, a temporary council chamber was established at Mr Major's store in the wake of the Lanterrick's destruction.

Election Campaign

IN 1870, an election was held to fill the vacancies of three retiring aldermen on Kiama Council. Election hopefuls campaigned their cause through addresses at public meetings as well as through obviously staged advertisements in the *Kiama Independent*.

The following requisition sees candidate, Joseph Pike, make an election statement you'd be hard-pressed to hear today.

"(REQUISITION)

TO MR JOSEPH PIKE

SIR - We, the undersigned ratepayers of the Kiama Ward, being desirous to express our appreciation of the independent course of action pursued by you during the nine years that you held a seat in the Council as our representative, and having the fullest confidence in your integrity and ability to again discharge the duties of that position with credit to yourself and advantage to us, hereby request that you will allow yourself to be placed in nomination at the forthcoming municipal election; and in the event of your doing so, we pledge our best endeavours to secure your return.

We are, Sir, yours obediently (Here follow 110 signatures)

(REPLY) GENTLEMEN - After receiving such a requisition from my fellow townsmen, the least I can do in return is to offer my services to you, and promise if returned to do the best for the district. It is useless for me to make any specific promises as to what I will do, because such promises are in general broken. J Pike"

On the State election front, Henry Parkes, who had served Kiama in the NSW Legislative Assembly since 1864, was returned in 1870 (reported on November 10), but he resigned six weeks later, owing to an item published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* which, it appears, it is suggested he had a conflict of interest in some of his political dealings.

Mr Parkes was a particularly active representative who was responsible for securing much of the funds for the Kiama's harbour works. He was replaced by John Stewart as Kiama's MLA.

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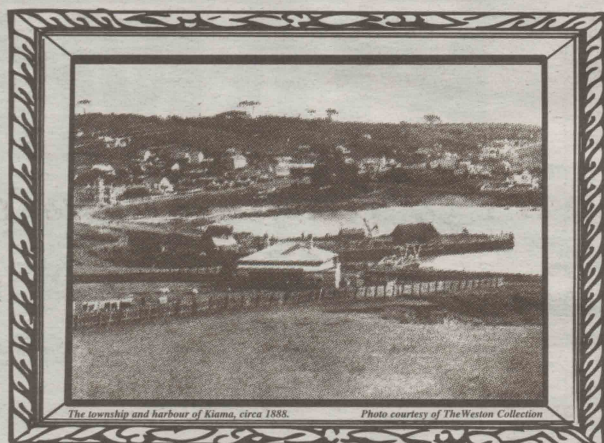
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HISTORICAL PRINTS OF LOCAL KIAMA AREAS AND LANDMARKS



The township and harbour of Kiama, circa 1888. Photo courtesy of The Weston Collection

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

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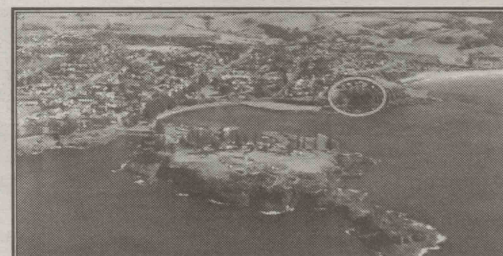
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Law & Order

AS can be gathered from the 'Temperance vs Alcohol' debate, alcohol continued as a common denominator in many cases tried at the Kiama Police Court during the 1870s.

So too was obscene language which was always "not fit for publication" and made one wonder what foul blasphemous were actually uttered. To date, "wretch" is about the strongest word which has made it to print.

The Kiama Police Court was also called upon to protect people from themselves.

On November 26, 1972, the court heard the case of James Cole jun, of Jamberoo, who was of "unsound mind" and had been arrested with a view to "necessary restraint and medical treatment".

The court heard that he had been "In a bad state of mind" for the past three weeks and had threatened to take his life by poison. Cole was ultimately shipped to Darlinghurst gaol for 14 days with a recommendation for medical treatment.

At the same sitting, Mrs W Baxter jun, of Shellharbour, asked the court to stop her husband from drinking, saying that he had wasted the family's assets on alcohol and they were now approaching destitution as a result.

The magistrate ordered that letters be sent to all public houses in the district, instructing the owners not to supply Baxter with "fermented or spiritous liquors for 12 months".

One of the more unexpected legal outcomes involved the case of a local vagabond

"JAMES GREEN, eighty-two years old, was placed in the dock on the charge of having no settled home or visible means of support. From the evidence of the apprehending officer, Constable Chisholm, it would appear that on Sunday the 20th instant, the old man went to the watch-house and describing his impoverished condition, asked to be allowed to sleep in the cells. In the court he admitted the truth of the evidence and expressed a wish to be sent to gaol. Verdict - one month in Wollongong Gaol, with hard labour."

Kiama Independent
March 24, 1870

Cases of sexual assault in the courts were rare. This was not to say, of course, that it did not occur. It was probably more a statement of women's rights and a reluctance to come forward than any other factor.

A case in the 1860s was indicative of the attitude by some. A Jamberoo woman came forward after an attempted sexual assault by her baker. The baker delivered a loaf of bread to the woman's home, along with the line "I be a Scottish man and you be a Scottish woman" which seemed, to him, all that was necessary to win her over.

In a case of alleged rape which appeared before the courts in March, 1871, the *Kiama Independent's* lead-in paragraph indicates

'Flogging in Newgate'

Almost 100 years after Australia's settlement as a penal colony, the practice of whipping or 'flogging' was alive and well, as evidenced by the fate of the following criminals who suffered the pain of the cat-of-nine-tails.

"FLOGGING IN NEWGATE"

Two young men recently convicted at the Central Criminal Court of robberies with violence, and sentenced to long terms of imprisonment, and flogging with the cat., underwent the latter portion of their sentence the other morning... Daniel Duffy, eighteen, was first placed in the triangle... He was sentenced to twenty lashes with the cat and seven years' penal servitude. The cat was wielded in turns by two warders, and at the first stroke Duffy, who had at first manifested considerable apprehension, shouted 'Oh!' Each successive stroke was followed by a howl of agony, and behalf of the the allotted 25 lashes had been delivered, the struggles of the convict became almost frantic. The last half of the punishment was administered by the second warder, and as it proceeded Duffy writhed in agony... Each lash deliberately placed, left its mark and at the conclusion Duffy's back left the appearance of a swollen discoloured mass of flesh."

Kiama Independent
December 5, 1872



• The Eureka Estate, owned by Captain Samuel Charles. Captain Charles was prominent in Kiama society in not only many civic issues but in the establishment of Kiama's butter export industry to London.

the difficulty (and, hence, rarity) of reporting such an offence. "A journalist's duty to society requires that all cases coming before the courts of law, having any public interest, should be reported with sufficient minuteness to be understood by the public. It is equally a duty, we conceive, to report the facts of such cases as the above without those minute details which could, at best, only satisfy a morbid appetite, yet offend the sensibilities of parents and furnish unprofitable matter for the perusal of juvenile readers..."

Ultimately, the case was dismissed, the 16-year-old 'victim' being above the legal age of consent (14 years) and, by her own evidence, admitting "her own consent and further, that she possessed ordinary intelligence and knew the moral turpitude of the set".

Cases of insolvency and bankruptcy were unfortunately common, the beleaguered farmer or householder having their final humiliation played out in the courts.

In November 1872, John Collins, a farmer who was leasing a farm from Mr Hawkins at Jamberoo, declared his insolvency. His debts totalled £239, his assets - of furniture and apparel - amounted to £4. The list of debtors was long and included £107 to Jamberoo storekeeper, John Tate.

It appears "furious riding" was a bit of a problem, the local "rowdies" attracting strong consternation from both the *Kiama Independent* and the community.

"FURIOUS RIDING - We wish to caution those parties who make a practice of racing their horses in that portion of Bong Bong Street between Manning Street and the Point, as complaints have been made to the police and anyone doing so in the future will be prosecuted... The practice is a dangerous one, especially in a neighbourhood like the one referred to where a number of children are to be seen playing at all hours of the day."

Kiama Independent
January 16, 1873

Police Stations

While it appears that Jamberoo and Gerringong did not have the benefit of their own police station, we know that an officer was posted at Jamberoo. In November, 1872, an article reported the departure of Senior Constable Goddard from the town and, three months later, outrage at the Government's failure to replace him.

At a public meeting, the townspeople argued their right to police protection, saying that a response from John Stewart

MLA to their plight was insufficient.

Mr Stewart said that the Government regarded Jamberoo as a "quiet locality" and that the services of the police were required in "more disorderly places". They were assured that a constable would be returned to the town again "when convenient" and that, in the meantime, the duty would be done by the Kiama and Dapto constables.

This was not good enough, according to the meeting. An incident was cited by Mr W Stewart whereby, just the previous week, "...the riot and disorder were such that a respectable woman could hardly pass along the village streets, and people were obliged to seek shelter where they could find it from the rowdies who were racing and galloping their horses along it".

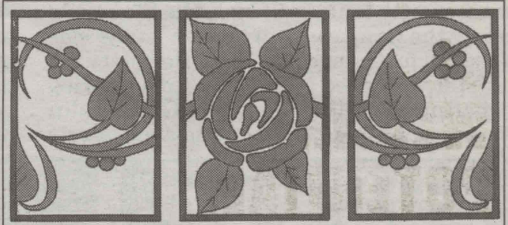
Kiama Independent
February 6, 1873

Mr Stewart moved that deputation be formed to have the decision reversed, this committee comprising Messrs David Lindsay Waugh, David Lindsay Dymock, W Stewart and Henry Frederick Noble and this was unanimously carried.

But the deputation failed in its aim, a letter from the Colonial Secretary's office denying the reinstatement of the foot constable and further saying that a new mounted constable at Shellharbour and one at Kiama would patrol the Jamberoo area.

Regardless, by July 1878, a police officer was restored to the township. And the community's response? To campaign for the construction of a police lock-up, of course, like any progressive community would!

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Children Welcome – Blackboard Menu
Coach Tours • Travel Club • Entertainment

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS

The Stewarts

ONE of Kiama's early commercial bakers and later a successful dairy farmer, Edward Stewart senior emigrated to Kiama from the Makeny area of County Tyrone, Northern Ireland, in 1879.

Edward was aged just 23 years when he arrived and was sponsored by a cousin, Edward Keys, of Gerringong. For a time, he worked for a local baker, delivering bread throughout the district.

In 1886 he married Elizabeth Johnston (from Dring, County Fermanagh) and the couple operated their own bakery business in the same location as today's Manning Street bakery. The family lived above the shop.

An interesting aside is that a current 99-year-old resident of a Mosman nursing home, Joyce Smillie (nee Pickeman), remembers as a small child in Kiama, playing under the dough kneading table in the Stewart's bakery and pinching the knees of the Stewart girls as they were rolling out the dough.

Edward and Elizabeth had 4 children, Ivy 1889, Beatrice (Trixie) 1890, Edward (Eddie) 1892 and Edna 1896.

The family worked the bakery business until about 1912 when Edward fulfilled his long-held ambition of owning a farm and purchased 220 acres of land fronting the old Princes Highway at Marsden's Hill just south of Kiama.

The property included part of the present Hillview or "Frogs Hollow" estate and extended south past Munna Munnora creek and west into Armstrong's Gully. It also extended over to the eastern side of the highway and included the existing cottage on the highway at the top of Marsden's Hill and the adjoining land on the northern side of the cottage.

The old Kendall's Cemetery was on the property but was not part of the title. The farmhouse, built by Edward Stewart in about 1912, was positioned on the immediate eastern side of the present Stewart Place and faced the highway.

Edward, and later his son Eddie, built the property into one of the best dairy farms in the district. The remains of the concrete water gravity tank, built by Eddie Stewart to supply the farm, can still be seen on the side of the hill just west of Kendall's Cemetery.

Water was piped to the tank from a spring higher up the hill at the top of Grey's gully. The present Kiama bypass completely bisects

the old farm.

There was an amusing story regarding Edward Stewart's watermelon patch that was located at the southern end of the present Hillview Circuit. Apparently, the watermelons were due to be picked and it was a bumper crop, so some of the town "lads" decided they would help themselves with a night raid.

Unfortunately for the "lads", one of Eddie Stewart's friends, "Podgy" Brown, got wind of the raid and told Eddie who decided to teach the thieves a lesson. "Podgy" was briefed to join the raiding party and Eddie Stewart and a couple of friends lay in wait with their guns.

When the raiders arrived and were well into the patch, Eddie and his friends fired their guns into the air while "Podgy" screamed "I've been shot". The terrified raiders beat all records in racing back into town and spread the word that "Podgy" Brown was dead in the Stewart's watermelon patch.

But of course, the joke was on them and "Podgy" was having a good laugh with Eddie and his mates.

The family had a worrying time during WWI. Eddie (the only son) volunteered to join the Army in the 36th Battalion "Carmichael's 1000", which was raised from members of rifle clubs. Eddie, apart from being a prominent rugby league player in the district, was an outstanding marksman and had won many awards in competitions with the Kiama Rifle Club and in national competitions.

However, his Battalion was almost wiped out in the bitter fighting on the Western Front and Eddie was seriously wounded on three separate occasions. On the first two occasions he was months recovering in Britain before being sent back to the front. On the third occasion, when he was hit by three machine gun bullets, which occurred just weeks ahead of the armistice.

After recovering from his wounds, Eddie was repatriated back to Australia. His return to Kiama resulted in a large gathering of family and town residents at the Kiama railway station and speeches by the Mayor and others with a combined Kiama and Gerringong band playing. This moving event was reported in the *Kiama Independent* of 15 March 1919.

Edward Stewart senior died in 1941 and his wife Elizabeth predeceased him in 1933.

In 1937 Eddie Stewart married Thelma Weston, of Albion Park, and they continued to operate the farm until 1950 when Eddie suffered a stroke and the property was sold to the Chittick family.

The family moved into town, building a home at 70 Collins Street, Kiama, where Eddie died two years later. His funeral attracted one of the largest attendances seen in Kiama at that time.

Thelma was left to raise their two boys, Brian (b 1938) and Garry (b 1940). Brian married Helen Whalan, also a Kiama girl, and they still live in Kiama. They have three children - Debbie married to Bob Henderson with children Mitchell and Jake and living in Gerringong; Carolyn married to Peter Romelinh with children Caitlin, Mikaela and Piper and living in Corrimal; and Paul Stewart who lives in Gerringong.

Eddie and Thelma's other son, Garry, joined the Navy from Kiama



• Edward and Elizabeth Stewart with children Eddie, Beatrice (Trixie), Edna and Ivy circa 1898.

in 1957 and retired from the Navy in 1991 as a Captain after 35 years service, which included service in Vietnam. He lives at Manly. Garry married Diana Moore, of Albion Park, and they have 3 children, Susan married to Kim Loane with one child Marcus and living in Melbourne; Gregory Stewart who lives in Manly; and Nicola married to Douglas Riley with one child Indiana and living in Vincentia.

Thelma Stewart was a popular and active resident of Kiama until she died in 1998.

Of Edward Stewart's daughters, Ivy was married briefly to a man named Thompson. They had a son, Les Thompson who was raised on the Stewart farm and became a prominent rugby league fullback for Kiama in the 1930's. Les served in the RAAF during the 1939/45 War. He married Rae Dall, a Kiama girl, and moved to Mascot where he worked as a builder. Les died of a stroke in 1953 while attending the Kiama Show. Les and Rae's son, Ian Thompson, still live in Sydney.

Ivy then married Hugh Weir in 1932 and they moved to a farm at Bangalow where they lived until Hugh died in 1942. Ivy returned to Kiama and lived first in Bonaira Street and then in Farmer Street until she died in 1981.

Edna and Trixie Stewart never married and lived the rest of their lives together in Kiama. They died in 1964 and 1976 respectively.

There were a number of other Kiama people who worked on the Stewart farm. Stan Edwards and Artie Pepper were there for a time and the Hanigan family. Fred Hanigan, his wife Kate and their children John and Val lived in the Marsden's Hill cottage for many years when Fred worked for Eddie Stewart.

John Hanigan married Beryl Ward and lives at Jamberoo and Val married Trevor Best and lives in Kiama. Harry Galpin was another long term employee who left the farm to join the Army and served in the 1914/18 War.

He was seriously wounded in France and returned to Kiama and worked on the Stewart farm for another 30 years.

The story of the Stewart family in the district would not be complete without men-

tioning Andrew Stewart, Edward's brother, who emigrated from County Tyrone in 1886.

Andrew worked initially with his brother Edward in the bakery at Kiama before buying the bakery business in Jamberoo in 1894. Like Edward, his ambition was to own his own farm and in 1900 he purchased 70 acres in Jamberoo including the historic Minnamurra House, which was built by Dr Robert Menzies in the 1840's with the assistance of convict labour.

Andrew married Elizabeth (Lizzie Jane) Caldwell who died in childbirth in 1897, aged just 29. He then married Mary Jane (Min) Jones and they had two sons, William (Bill) (b1902) and Ross (b1906).

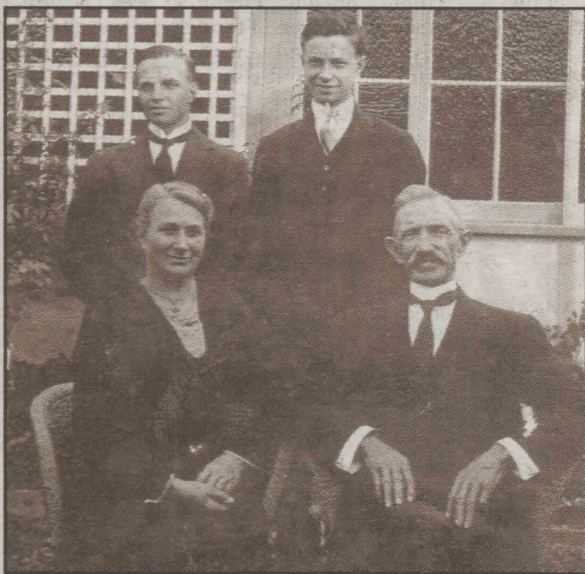
Bill died in 1957 when he slipped and fell into boiling tar that had been spilt in the house kitchen. Andrew Stewart died in 1929 and Min in 1953. Ross (and Bill until his death) continued to work the farm following the death of their father.

In 1959 Ross married Elsie Corner, of Wollongong, who had emigrated from County Durham, England in 1950. Ross and Elsie lived at Minnamurra House until Ross died in 1984, when the farm was sold. Elsie Stewart now lives in Kiama.

Compiled by Garry Stewart

Blue Haven Village

Kiama Council's Blue Haven Village comprises 115 independent living units with an adjoining hostel and nursing home. Planning for the latest addition, to be known as Stage 6, is well underway, with construction of additional independent living units to commence around June 2000. For further information on lifestyle choices at Blue Haven Village, please contact Steve Dawson 4233 1714.



• Andrew and Min Stewart with their sons, Bill and Ross at Minnamurra House.



• "Strathlevan", Kiama, built by Edward Stewart in about 1912 - located one mile south of Kiama on the Princes Highway. The home was demolished in 1879.

Public (National) Schools

Kiama Public School

Public education in NSW was established by the National Board of Education in 1848. Under the system, the Board was prepared to meet up to two-thirds the cost of building a school, provided local patrons raised the balance and superintended the construction.

The first national school in Kiama was built at Jerrara in 1858 and this set the groundwork for other schools to follow.

1870 opened in Kiama with a campaign to build a new Kiama National School, to replace a previous school which had folded.

Plans for the building had been approved and subscriptions were being collected, while fundraising concerts and the like were held to generate much-needed funding for the project.

"PUBLIC SCHOOL CONCERT - As announced in our last issue, the concert in aid of the Public School fund took place in the courthouse on Friday evening last. The weather during two or three days previous had been very unsettled, and the roads were so bad, that but very few of the country people were present at the entertainment; and the audience was consequently very small... We noticed a marked improvement in the amateur minstrels since they last appeared in Kiama... The programme was divided into three parts - the first part (the novelty) comprising 'The minute gun at sea' (duet) by Messrs Roberts and Prott; 'The lost child', by Mr Wilson; 'The flying trapeze' by Mr Prott; and 'The moon behind the trees', by Mr Roberts. These were all sung with white faces and were gone through with much good taste and ability... This part was concluded by Mr Wilson who appeared as a nigger in 'Babylon's a fallin' - his eccentricities eliciting an encore... The amount realised was £5 4s 6d."

Kiama Independent
January 27, 1870

On March 31, 1870, an advertisement was placed in the *Kiama Independent* announcing that the first stone of the school would be laid, but this was postponed due to inclement weather. On December 1, the *Kiama Independent* reported that the building had been completed - "The workmanship is admired by all who examine it. The mason, Mr E Jones, has left his work a monument of faithfulness and excellence. Nor are the contractors for the woodwork, Messrs Staff and Caldwell, less entitled to praise."

The opening of the school took place on April 5, 1871, with a crowd of 150 in attendance. The proceedings were met with some initial disappointment as hazardous seas prevented the arrival by paddlesteamer of the main dignitaries including Sydney University Professor, Mr Smith.

The gathering was told that the building cost £1566, of which £47 was still owing. The school teacher had been appointed but was yet to arrive (Mr James Hustler, aged 36).

Speeches were made, but were largely devoted to the statement of accounts and each speaker's shock at being called upon to make an address at short notice. Thankfully, the day was still enjoyed by all.

"...though the disappointment (of not having several dignitaries present) was a real one,



• Cooking classes were extremely popular in the early days of National schools.

it was not observed to make a material difference on the vigour with which the company, young and old, proceeded in due time to the task of demolishing the refreshments which had been generously provided by the Local Board and other friends of the cause and which were arranged on three long tables in the schoolroom, duly ornamented, in addition, with bouquets of the best blossoms which the gardens of Kiama could furnish at the season."

Kiama Independent
April 6, 1871

In an architect's report, the building was described as such: "The school buildings, the principle front of which faces the ocean, consist of a large and well ventilated schoolroom 58ft 3 inches long and 20ft wide inside, entered by two porches - one for boys and one for girls - each 14ft six inches by 7ft, with wall space for hats and bonnets. On the south side of the building is a class-room for boys 15 by 15, and the building has been so designed that a class-room for girls can be added on the north side at any period... The walls of school and class-room are 12ft high, and the roofs have a steep pitch. The walls are built of rubble blue stone, procured in the locality... The school-room is fitted with desks and forms fixed on raised platforms. These and all of the furniture for the school are made of cedar. The water closets (toilets) are commodious and conveniently situated. The teacher's residence is a cottage detached from the school."

Kiama Independent
April 13, 1871

While the school was built larger than was thought to be necessary, within a fortnight of its opening, it became apparent that an extension would be required, the *Kiama Independent* reporting that students were enrolling by the day, the total being "very little short of one hundred".

Conditions became so trying, in fact, that children began fainting due to lack of ventilation. In September, 1872, tenders was called to build an additional classroom on the north side.

The community's pride in the Kiama Public School and the achievements of its scholars was reflected in the columns of the *Kiama Independent*.

In attending the school, high achievers were encouraged to sit for one of two levels of a University Examination.

In December 1872, nine pupils sat for the examination with eight being successful, they being: Robert King, W Reid, GC Waldron, A Robb, D Colley, A Colley and H Williams.

Also included on the list was 16-year-old William Cullen who later rose to prominence as Chief Justice and Lieutenant Governor of NSW. As a young scholar attending Jerrara Public School, William was so outstanding he was offered employment as a pupil teacher when he turned 13.

It can be ascertained that there was a

degree of competition waged between the Kiama school and the Wollongong School with regard to the academic achievement of its students.

In November 1877, it was noted that of the 15 students who sat for the recent university exams, nine came from the Kiama School, two from the Church of England School at Jamberoo, and one civil service candidate from Toolijooa. Only three students hailed from Wollongong. The *Kiama Independent*, in response, commented that it was hoped "the Kiama school will retain its reputation".

Jamberoo Public School

In May 1872, a movement was set afoot for the establishment of Jamberoo's first public school - in the neighbourhood of the former Man of Kent Inn and formerly used as the Woodstock Stores.

The building was proposed as a home for the teacher while another built alongside it by the current proprietor, Mr George Wood, was 'quite ready to receive the furniture and appliances of a school-room' (*Kiama Independent*, May 30, 1872).

The application for the school appeared in the *Government Gazette* in September, 1872, and the school, often referred to as Woodstock School, was opened mid-January, 1873.

While 40 children were in attendance and the figure was expected to double, it is obvious, from the following excerpt, that the local parents needed encouragement to educate their children.

"...The neighbourhood as a whole is quite backward in the matter of education; it is hoped that parents will consider the particular importance under the circumstance of sending their children as early in the quarter as possible." *Kiama Independent*, January 23, 1873

In 1875, moves were made to establish a new public school at Jamberoo and work began in March the following year on a two-acre site, bought from John Tate.

The school was significant in that, unlike other schools of the district, it was completely funded by the Government, the local community no longer being expected to part-fund the construction by way of subscriptions.

The school was opened in the new school year on Monday, January 28 1878, with Mr Thornton as the teacher. The official opening was performed three weeks later.

"JAMBEROO - The formal opening of the new public school took place on Wednesday last, Professor Smith, whose intended visit at the time of the actual commencement of school work had been prevented by the rain, was enabled to put in an appearance. The day was fair, and the muster of the children, parents and visitors from all parts of the district was large. The day's program was a simple one. It consisted first in the consumption of the refreshments usually provided on occasion of a tea-party; and secondly to listening to the address which the learned Professor afterwards delivered in the school-room... The

speeches delivered after Mr Smith sat down were but brief, and not very attentively listened to, because it was now 'milking time'."

Kiama Independent
February 22, 1878

The school's first Board was announced in the *Government Gazette* and consisted of John Colley JP, David Lindsay Dymock, George Wood, Henry Frederick Noble and James Graham.

Gerringong Public School

At a meeting held at the Gerringong Boat-harbour Store on Monday, August 4, 1873, the community took steps toward the establishment of a public school at Gerringong.

Rev Robert Wilson, in addressing the gathering, noted the achievements of the Omega Retreat School and Toolijooa School before recommending that moves be made to establish a school at Gerringong.

"Under present circumstances, a great number of children of tender age were totally deprived of the advantages of education on account of the distance of the present schools," the Reverend said.

His resolution was seconded by Mr J Campbell and carried unanimously. A foundation committee, comprising WR Hindmarsh, J Campbell, James Wilson, W Weir, John Wilson sen, GJ Hindmarsh, A Campbell and A Lamond was formed.

A subscription list for the school was then opened, Mr Hindmarsh heading the list with £10.

Unlike the general fanfare which is attached to the opening of most public buildings, it appears that the Gerringong Public School was opened in quiet circumstances on Monday, April 3, 1876.

The *Kiama Independent* reported that the Public School buildings were finished and a teacher had been transferred from the Omega Retreat School, but that no official opening would be performed.

"...There is a debt of upwards of £80 still on the building, for which the committee are responsible; and in order to liquidate a portion of this and otherwise make their proceedings public, it was their intention to have had some demonstration at its opening. Apparently, however, they have been denied this their just privilege as, I observe... the school is to be opened quietly on Monday next."

Kiama Independent
March 31, 1876

The absence of a ceremony denied public recognition for those in the community who gave of their time and money to ensure that the local children received an education.

At a meeting of the school board in April, the committee returned a cheque of £100 to Mr Hindmarsh who made the loan "for six months without interest" to assist the project.

Mr John Miller, who acted as superintendent during the construction of the school, was praised for his involvement, along with the committee chairman Rev Wilson and secretary Mr James Wilson.

WELCOME TO Kiama Christian Fellowship

INCORPORATED



A CROSSLINK AUSTRALIA NETWORK CHURCH

- Family Service: 10am Sunday
- Children's Church: 10.30 to 11.30am Sunday
- Youth Bunch: 10.45 to 11.30am Sunday
- Youth Activities: 6.45pm Fridays

We are a Family Church

PASTOR: JON WRIGHT

PO Box 82, Kiama 2533 Ph/Fax 4237 5254

Births, Deaths & Accidents

Births, Deaths & Accidents

As already stated, Kiama did not appear to have so difficult a time with snakes during the 1870s as it did during the previous decade. And improvement to the local roads may have played a role in the declining number of deaths and injury involving horses, although cases were still reported.

Disease was still prevalent, however, and cases of typhoid fever, dysentery, scarlet fever, diphtheria, croup and consumption were reported.

In August 1876, the *Kiama Independent* recorded the death of six-year-old Cevina Chittick from diphtheria. She was the daughter of Mrs G Chittick, and grand-child of Mr and Mrs J Wilson of Crooked River. Three weeks later, Mr John Marks, having just been farewelled by the Jamberoo community on his relocation to Sydney, suffered the loss of two sons - aged five and two - to scarlet fever.

If the early years of the 1870s could be characterised by any particular form of death, it was by way of drowning. Whether this was purely coincidental or a statement of the settlers becoming less fearful of (and more daring) their coastal environment - regardless of their swimming ability - is uncertain.

"DEATH BY DROWNING - On Friday last, about noon, Hector, son of Mr Charles McKenzie of Broughton Creek, was found drowned in a creek not far from their dwelling. The deceased, nearly twenty-one years old, was the subject of a severe affliction of the mind and, liable at any moment, to an attack of fits. He was, consequently, an object of extreme parental solicitude, especially to his mother, whose watchfulness until the morning of his death - except when asleep - had never allowed the unfortunate young man out of her sight for the space of half an hour for the last eleven years." *Kiama Independent*, March 10, 1870

In April 1870, the community was rocked by the death of a 12-year-old Gerringong lad, James Bridge, at 'Weary' Creek. The boy was apparently left to drown by his friends after he struck difficulty.

At an inquest into the boy's death, conducted at the Lanterrick Hotel, Gerringong, the boys said that the deceased had simply got out of his depth and, by the time they were dressed and ready to leave, he had disappeared below the surface.

Regardless of their testimony, the case attracted strong criticism from the *Kiama Independent*.



• An early photograph of Crooked River. Photo courtesy of the Ken Miller Collection.

caught underneath the vessel. James left a widow and several small children; John was single.

The following inquest involves 51-year-old Gerringong, George Harding, who expired after a mix-up which saw his medicine - couriered from Kiama for the purpose of relieving a kidney inflammation - being swapped with a bottle of medicine meant for a neighbour suffering dysentery.

As the old woman could not read and the deceased's wife took it in good faith that the medicine was correct, both patients consumed the respective contents and Mr Harding died soon after.

Aside from the tragedy of the mix-up, the case outlines the medical practices employed at the time.

"INQUEST - An inquiry as to the cause of death of the late George Harding, of Gerringong... Mary Harding, wife of deceased, deposed: her late husband had been ailing - she thought from gravel (kidney stones) - since the previous Monday; he complained principally of a pain in his side. On Wednesday, the 5th, Dr Tarrant was called in, and he applied leeches and administered medicine... about an hour after taking the wrong medication, she noticed her husband breathing heavily and sent in to Kiama for the doctor; he came in about three hours, applied blisters and bled deceased on the arm; he never rallied and died about five o'clock." *Kiama Independent* October 13, 1870

Several families in the community witnessed the terrible deaths of their children by fire.

"LAMENTABLE DEATH - Our readers will see with concern the announcement in our present issue of the death of an infant child of Dr Charles Taylor, late of this town... Dr and Mrs Taylor, while sitting at lunch about 2 o'clock on Friday last, were alarmed by the screams of the child from the bedroom where his cot was placed. On hurrying to the room, they found the cot in flames, and the injuries sustained by the child were such that, in spite of all that could be done by medical assistance, he died about half past seven on Saturday. The only conjecture that can be formed so far as we see as to the immediate cause of the fatal accident, is that the child had fired his cot by means of some lucifer matches." *Kiama Independent*, July 20, 1871

"INQUEST - On Staurday last, an inquest was held on the body of Ellen Maria Rutledge, three years old, at the residence of her father, William Rutledge, of Gerringong, the unfortunate child having been so severely burned the day before as to cause her death... Ellen

Rutledge, mother of the deceased child, deposed: between 6 and 7 o'clock she... went into the stockyard, about four chains from the house, to milk, leaving the deceased and her brother George, who is about five years old, alone in the house sitting at the fire; about half an hour after leaving the children, George called out from the house to her, saying the baby was on fire. She ran to the house and found the clothes of the deceased on fire, and the child screaming; she wrapped her own

clothes round the child and put the fire out; she stripped the remains of the clothes off the child and found it was badly burned on the legs, thighs and abdomen. She oiled the burned places and immediately sent for Dr Tarrant who came out and tended the child, but it died at a quarter to nine the same evening... George said the deceased was combing her hair and sat down by the hearth when her clothes caught fire." *Kiama Independent*, May 22, 1873.

Community Farewells

David Lindsay Waugh Esq JP

In February, 1873, a banquet was held to farewell David Lindsay Waugh Esq JP, who left Kiama to take up the position of councillor at St Andrew's College.

Mr Waugh had lived in Kiama for 30 years, during which time he was an active member of the community. He was a founder of the Jamberoo Presbyterian Sabbath School in 1843, a former co-owner of the *The Examiner* newspaper, a past president of the Kiama Literary and Debating Society and he led the cause for a Presbyterian movement at Jamberoo.

At the farewell, held at the Kiama Courthouse, Mr Waugh was praised for his "...influence for good among young men, particularly in the early days of the district, when the facilities for moral training and educational advantages were far less than they are now, was like seed sown in the ground." (*Kiama Independent*, February 27, 1873).

In reply, Mr Waugh said that the district differed greatly to when he first arrived.

"...the streets of Kiama were covered with dense brush, there was little clearing done and it was a common saying, 'If you want to take a dray from Jamberoo, you must take an axe to cut the vines'... What a contrast with the present time!"

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James and John Marks

On October 29, 1875, the community held a public banquet to farewell John and James Marks who were relocating to Darling Point, Sydney, with their families.

So grand was the affair, and so great was the desire to recognise both men's "high moral, social and public worth" that an organising committee was formed to stage the event.

The banquet came off at the Church of

England school-room, Jamberoo, with 80 visitors travelling from throughout the Illawarra to attend including David Lindsay Dymock, MLA, and Mr Samuel William Gray, MLA.

The meal was provided by Messrs John Tate, of the Jamberoo Hotel, and local confectioner, E Braham, while the room was tastefully decorated with native evergreens and, suspended from the ceiling, the Australian emblem and the words 'Advance Jamberoo'.

Both men were described as having been connected with "everything that tended to the welfare and advancement of Jamberoo" and who had "morally, socially and politically done their best, and whose influence for good was incalculable".

The gathering was told that John Marks previously represented the electorate in the Parliament of the colony. He was also a past president of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society.

Both men were counted as charitable ("no case of charity or distress ever went unaided by them") and as strong supporters of the Presbyterian Church.

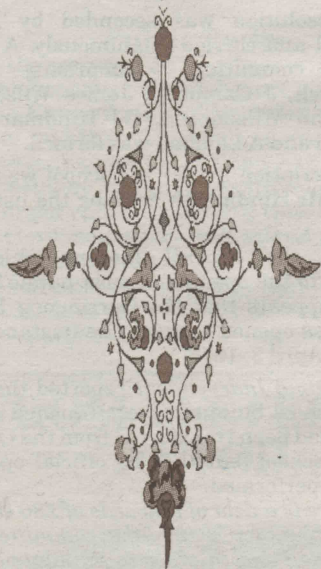
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George Adams

George Adams, proprietor of Kiama's famed Steam Packet Inn, left town with his wife for Goulburn in March, 1879.

At a farewell banquet at which the Kiama Public Band played, the gathering was told that Mr Adams had resided in Kiama for the past 20 years and was "possessed of a smiling face and an open hand... a man of honest, upright principle".

The following week, Mrs Adams was presented with "a handsome silver tea service" and illuminated address for her service to the community.



"GERRINGONG - DEATH BY DROWNING - ...To think that a couple of lads verging on manhood should stand by and see a companion struggling in the last agonies of death by drowning, without so much as making an effort to render assistance... It is almost incredible to think that lads of their age and size would have dressed themselves, meanwhile watching the hair of the head of their comrade floating on the surface of the stream until it finally disappeared, and then going home without mentioning so much as a word."

Also at Gerringong, the community was shocked by the drowning deaths of brothers James and John Wilson - sons of the late Alderman Wilson.

The two men were out fishing off Gerringong with five others when their boat capsized on Weir's beach, the brothers being

The Wreck of the Rangoon

One of Kiama's first shipping disasters occurred in March 1870, when a barque, the *Rangoon*, became shipwrecked on an island located at the mouth of the Minnamurra River, thus providing the local landmark with its current name.

"WRECK OF THE RANGOON - ...After the terrible storm of the previous night... authentic intelligence confirming the report of a wreck at the mouth of the Minnamurra was speedily brought to town by Captain (Samuel) Charles. Early in the morning, that gentleman was preparing to ascertain the casualties if the storm on his estate, bounded by the coast for several miles, when a message was brought to him to the effect that a vessel was wrecked on the rock island which divides the entrance to the Minnamurra River... He at once proceeded to the north-eastern extremity of his estate, and beheld at some four or five hundred yards distance the sad spectacle of a fine barque, apparently of 300 or 400 tons burden, stranded on the rocks off the centre of the island, to seaward, and seven men ashore, some engaged repairing a boat, the remainder in other occupations. A signal of distress was hoisted on the summit of the island... in such a manner that he - an old sailor - feared some life had been lost. This fear happily proved groundless for all hands - ten in number - were safe... The vessel, on whose stern he could easily read the words 'Rangoon, Melbourne', appeared to be lying on a level surface... he proceeded with all haste to secure the service of the Illawarra Steam Navigation Company's (life)boat from Kiama for the purpose of rescuing the men. The boat arrived on Captain

Charles's bullock-dray, and was launched into the river."

Kiama Independent
March 24, 1870

The following week, the *Kiama Independent* announced that the vessel had been sold by public auction.

The task of retrieving the wreckage, however, proved almost as harrowing as the initial shipwreck.

The heavy storms which had plagued the Illawarra coastline for the past few months abated just long enough for the recovery team to return to the island - before further disaster struck.

"WRECK OF THE RANGOON - ...On Monday, the 25th, they proceeded to the island as usual, with enough provisions for the week; the gale on Monday evening blew away their tent, the sea washed away their provisions, and they were consequently without food from Monday till Friday, excepting a little rice, which was rendered unfit for food by having been soaked in sea water. On Monday and Tuesday, they were exposed to the pitiless storm without any covering and with insufficient clothing; and the gale was so furious that they were compelled to hold on to the bushes on the small islet to prevent themselves from being blown off... They managed to leave the shore (with the assistance of Captain Charles and others) on Friday - of course in a very exhausted condition. The purchaser of the wreck, Mr Buchanan... is doubtful he will gain anything by the venture."

Kiama Independent
May 12, 1870



• The historic *Rangoon* which became shipwrecked at Minnamurra in March, 1870.

The Parramatta Lunatic Asylum

The local lunatic asylum was a necessary part of colonial life and anyone whose character defied human logic ended up as an inmate. The cases ranged from the seriously insane, to women temporarily admitted by their husbands for a week or so each month.

The following provides a valuable insight into the operation of such institutions - and number of people who qualified as "lunatics".

Notice also the writer's quaint journey through an institution which surely could not have been anything other than depressing.

"VISIT TO THE PARRAMATTA LUNATIC ASYLUM - During the week, we availed ourselves the kindness of Dr Taylor in being permitted to take a survey of the premises. The chief assistant, Mr J Brown, act-

ed as a guide, and a more gentlemanly and conversable person we seldom have met. Nothing was too much trouble for him... On our entrance from the gate towards the Criminal Yard, we noticed several alterations and improvements... Flower beds &c decorate the walk, and everything bears the appearance of order and discipline. We were first introduced into the Refractory Yard... There are 200 souls in that yard, and although their disease is of the worst character, they appeared subdued in the presence of their keepers. The noise and shouting of some was frightful to listen to, as is, of course, expected... Criminal Yard, where 50 men, some of the worst characters, are likely to remain for life... Imbecile Yard, a place of antediluvian appearance, the old shingled

buildings giving the yard a most desolate appearance, and making those within it, if it possibly could be, more miserable than they look... Epileptic Yard, where there are 21 patients, yet only five in hospital. The wards in the hospital, and also the sleeping rooms, are clean, neat and comfortable... The Green Yard, which is detached from the other part of the building, contains the best conducted and most harmless of characters... We were next introduced into the Board Room, where we left our autograph in the visitor's books, and where there was shown a splendid painting of 'Cooey' executed by Bertrand... from conversation with him we might well say - 'Though this be madness, there be method in it!'

Kiama Independent
June 19, 1873

Obituaries

"JAMES WILSON - We have this week to record with much regret that death of Mr James Wilson, of Gerringong. This melancholy event took place at his residence in the township, on Tuesday last. He had been for the last five or six years affected by disease of the heart; and some weeks since was attacked by paralysis, under the effects of which he has since been sinking. Mr Wilson was a native of the county Tyrone in Ireland and arrived in the colony some twenty-nine years ago... Mr Wilson was a man of quiet, unassuming manners, but took an intelligent interest in public movements, and sat in the municipal council during three years."

Kiama Independent
August 25, 1870

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"JAMES MARKS - We have this week to record the death of one more of those settlers whose residence in our district embraces by far the greater part of the time since 'the axe of the white man' first commenced the clearing of its natural forests. Mr James Marks sen, expired on Saturday last, at the residence of his youngest son, at Culwalla Jamberoo... Mr Marks was about 74 years of age, having been born in 1797 (we believe), at the town of Ballyronan, county Derry, Ireland. In 1826 he arrived in this colony... and settled in Sydney... About 30 years since, he settled in Illawarra, having purchased the Terragong Estate... The remains of the deceased were interred on Monday last in the burial ground attached to the Presbyterian Church, Jamberoo, the hearse being followed by several carriages and a cavalcade of about 160 horsemen."

Kiama Independent
December 1, 1870

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"MRS ROBERT HINDMARSH - We have, this week, to notice with much regret the melancholy death, by consumption, of the wife of Robert Hindmarsh Esq, of Rose Valley, Gerringong. Mrs Hindmarsh was only about 25 years of age."

Kiama Independent
May 9, 1872

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"MRS JAMES EMERY - We have further to record the death of the wife of James Emery Esq, of Nethervale, near Kiama. Mrs Emery expired at her residence on Saturday last, the approximate cause of death being enlargement of the heart, accelerated by an accession of symptoms of the nature of dysenter. Mrs Emery... was a native of county Fermanagh, Ireland, and the daughter of Mr John Nethery, a freeholder of that country. She arrived with Mr Emery in the colony towards the end of 1838; and the whole of the subsequent period, with a trifling exception, had been spent by them in this district... The surviving members of the family, besides Mr Emery, are five sons and four daughters."

Kiama Independent
May 9, 1872

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"JOSEPH KING - ...the death of an old resident of Kiama, Mr Joseph King, who expired on Wednesday, the 14th instant, in Sydney. Mr King had been a resident of the colony since 1834... His remains were interred in the family enclosure, in the public cemetery, Porter's Garden Beach."

Kiama Independent
January 22, 1874

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"THOMAS CHAPMAN ESQ - ...of Hartwell House, Kiama... The immediate cause of Mr Chapman's death was erysipelas in the throat," (Kiama Independent, November 12, 1874). Mr Chapman, 78, had resided in Kiama for about 19 years. His remains were interred in the private burial at Barroul, the property of his kinman, Thomas Kendall Esq.

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"MR NEIL SHARPE - We have this week the melancholy task of recording the death of Mr Neil Sharpe who, as most of our readers would be aware, had resided for many years and maintained an exceptional

repute in this part of the district of Illawarra. Mr Sharpe's death took place in Sydney; and the accident which was the most immediate cause of it happened in connection with his usual avocation as a dealer in livestock. On Friday last, Mr Sharpe was backing a horse which had just been sold on his account at Kiss's bazaar, for the purpose, no doubt, of exhibiting the animal's style. The horse had, however, been for some time in Sydney and consequently out of Mr Sharpe's immediate supervision. In consequence, he became somewhat 'skittish' and as Mr Sharpe was about to take him along Pitt-street, commenced the trick known as 'bucking'. Mr Sharpe, probably taken by surprise, was thrown violently to the ground, falling on the back of his head and becoming almost immediately insensible. A few incoherent words, we believe, were all that he spoke after falling... he died the following day... in spite of all the haste that could be made after the news of the accident had been received, none of his family could reach Sydney before death had taken place... His remains were placed on the steamer which left Sydney on Monday evening... Mr Sharpe was 59 years of age... and leaves a family of three sons and two daughters, besides his widow."

Kiama Independent
October 8, 1874

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JOHN KELL TATE - The Jamberoo community went into mourning following the sudden death of local storekeeper, John Tate, on April 25, 1876. Mr Tate, aged 58, had ridden from Jamberoo for the purpose of superintending the shipment of goods by steamer when he collapsed. At an inquest held into his death, it was found that he died from "instant disease of the heart"

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"JAMES MACKEY GREY, ESQ. - On the morning of Friday last, James Mackey Grey, Esq, the senior magistrate of the district, and with one or two exceptions, the oldest of its inhabitants, died at his residence, Omega Retreat, from the mere effects of natural decay, and without disease of any kind, or any appreciable pain. His remains were interred on the following day at the public cemetery, Gerringong, whither the hearse was followed by twelve or fourteen vehicles and more than a hundred horsemen. The Rev Mr Kelly, the resident minister of the English Church, officiated at the funeral. Of Mr Grey's family, his widow, one son and two daughters survive him... The late James Mackey was the son of Samuel Grey, a linen merchant and farmer in the colony of Armagh, Ireland... In the year 1832 he emigrated to Tasmania, and in the following year came to NSW to visit a relative near Kiama, from whom he purchased the Omega Retreat estate... About the year 1833 he was appointed the first magistrate of the Kiama district, and about the same time a district councillor... Some years later he was appointed Commissioner, Crowns of Lands... During the last three years his strength had been gradually giving way, especially since the death of his favourite daughter, Mrs Charles... He was aged seventy seven years." (Mr Grey's widow passed in March, 1878 'by decay of nature')

Kiama Independent
July 10, 1877

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"MRS HENRY NOBLE - We have to announce the death of Mrs Henry Noble, which sad event took place a little before noon on New Year's Day, at her residence, Fountaindale, after a painful illness of seventeen weeks' duration. She was born in the year 1809 and consequently was about 70 years old. The immediate cause of her death was heart disease... She was born at Knockmanoul, Parish of Balmalard, County Fermanagh, Ireland. The whole of Knockmanoul is owned by an ancient family named Graham, of which she was a member, being the third daughter of Francis and Elizabeth Graham."

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