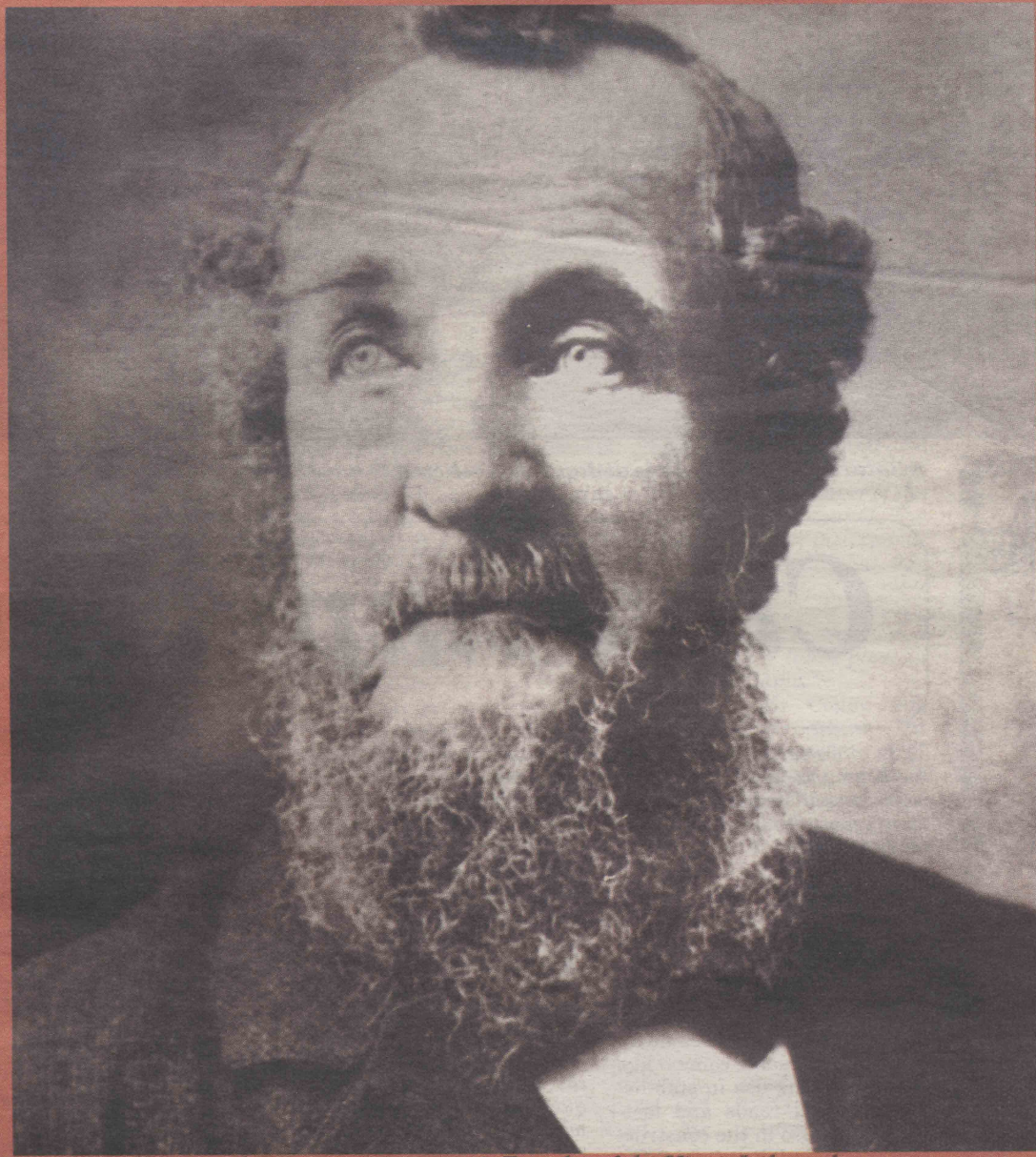


Kiama

MUNICIPALITY

OUR HISTORY IN PRINT



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

Volume 3

COLLECTOR'S EDITION

April 2000

A Kiama Independent
Twelve Volume Millennium Feature

Individual Copies \$2 available from Kiama Independent office

1880-84 Kiama 'comes of age'

IN this, the third edition of the *Kiama Independent's Our History In Print* series, we look at the period 1880-84.

The first five years of the 1880s was a time when Kiama Municipality appeared to 'come of age'. The streets were levelled and coated with blue metal, paddocks and reserves were cleared and old, unattractive buildings were replaced with items of architectural splendour.

History was also made when the first street lamp in the municipality was illuminated at the corner of Terralong and

Manning Streets, providing the CBD with "an appreciable sign of civilisation". This was followed five years later by the lighting of the entire town with gas.

On the agricultural front, the district witnessed a 'red letter day' in the history of dairy farming with the opening of the Kiama Pioneer Co-operative Butter Factory - the first of its kind in Australasia. The co-operative - financed by the farmers themselves - brought many advantages. It saw them profit from their own efforts, reduced labour significantly and, importantly, led to

the output of a better quality products and saw the region progress to become the foremost producer of dairy products in the country.

Blue metal quarrying, meantime, made its impact, not only through the myriad of excavations and associated blackpowder blastings that rang throughout the town and surrounds, but the influx in population and the thousands of dollars that were poured into town improvements as a result. A prominent downside, however, were the frequent and often ghastly nature of

injuries incurred by the quarrymen.

On the social front, Kiama's aspirations for social, commercial and education prominence were depressed by a nationwide surge of larrikinism which saw the gentry shocked and the whip introduced as a necessary means of crime control. The parading of a 'cat-o'-nine-tails' before a bench of youthful miscreants at Kiama Court in 1884 marked a chilling turning point in local law enforcement.

By Michelle Hctor

Additional Research: Chloe Ashbolt



A Saturday morning scene at Jamberoo believed to have been taken around the turn of the 19th century.

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Civic improvements

THE 1880s saw a coming of age for Kiama in the way of civic improvement and several of our town's most stunning examples of Victorian architecture were established, giving the town, as the *Kiama Independent* reported, a "brand new" appearance.

It bears mention that Kiama was in the fortunate position of being able to draw on local resources for its physical development. Blue metal became an extremely valuable commodity, not only for its use in stabilising the local roads and footpaths, but also in the construction of local buildings - from the homes used by the hundreds of quarrymen who converged on the town, to buildings of commercial prominence such as the *Kiama Pilot's Cottage*.

The need for civic improvements along Terralong Street was well-publicised in 1879, the *Kiama Improvement Committee* recommending that the street be tidied, fenced and lined with trees.

In February, 1880, the *Kiama Independent* suggested these improvements be taken further to include a pathway, especially at the corner of the *Kiama Postal & Telegraphic Office* which, it appears, was in bad state of repair. Through the following item, we also see that the newspaper's regard for the governing *Kiama Municipal Council* had softened, suggesting that traditional, public scrutiny of the council's efforts had also waned.

"THE PATHWAY ROUND THE POST-OFFICE - The inelegance and discomfort of our

streets is invariably a matter of uncomplimentary comment, to anyone who has the misfortune to tread them. Of course, we recognise the dilapidated state of the funds which our municipal councillors have at their command, and we are aware of the willing spirit of those gentlemen. But we certainly think that a little, judicious expenditure might be made at the corner of the post-office. Happily, we live in a state of sobriety, or there would be serious consequences attending an inebriate who ventured to steer with clouded faculties."

Given the following sentiments expressed by the *Independent*, one might thank heavens that the original omission of a clock from the design of the *Post Office tower* was rectified. A myriad of benefits were attributed to the clock's presence, from punctuality to domestic harmony.

"OUR CLOCK - We have many local advantages, some of which are not appreciated as they ought to be. One of these is undoubtedly 'our clock'. Its appearance lends a pleasing and important feature to our handsome post-office. It can be seen from almost any portion of our town. It helps punctuality; it lets us have the last half minute before the steamer goes; it gives us a chance to rage against those who do not come 'up to the time'. Indeed, in many ways, it is a boon. Only let it stop for a day and we should imagine ourselves lost... We should suffer a loss of temper and perhaps time in an endeavour to pacify our wives as we

come home late for dinner; indeed, the horrors attending such a result are, as the auctioneer would say, 'too numerous to mention'."

Kiama Independent
February 10, 1880

By July 1884, the much lauded clock appears to have fallen into disrepair and specifications for improvements to both the clock and the tower were released. While the works to the tower were deemed sufficient, it comes as no surprise that the clock works were regarded as "unsatisfactory" for a public monument of its stature. Most notable were plans for the bell whose ring would be muffled, thus robbing it of its "public value".

"...Why should we not have glass dials the same as at the *Sydney Post Office*, and now that we have gas in the town, be able to read the time, day or night, by means of illuminated dials?"

Kiama Independent
July 4, 1884

Other improvements to *Kiama township* included an additional room at the *Kiama Courthouse* to adjoin and open into the magistrate's present office. The room, 16ft x 14ft in dimension, was to be built of stone and brick and roofed with slate, to match the present appearance of the existing building.

In June, 1880, the *Kiama Independent* reported that the number of public works taking place in the town might lead a stranger visiting the town to express surprise "if anyone told

him that we were suffering from depression", this "depression" referring to the continued want of a successful agricultural product.

Nevertheless, local works listed included continued progress on the courthouse additions, "repairs" to the *Municipal Council Chambers*, and work in connection with a new *Commercial Bank* (today's *Westpac Bank* in *Manning Street*).

"THE NEW BANK BUILDING - The new building which the *Commercial Banking Company* are erecting in *Manning-street*, is likely to be one of the principal ornaments of *Kiama*, a town which, though it presents, especially to persons arriving from seawards, a clean, bright, almost brand-new appearance, has not hitherto been remarkable for architectural splendour. The site of the new bank is immediately opposite the *Market-square*... Two wooden buildings, erected less than a quarter of a century ago have been removed from the bank allotment... The design for the new building has been furnished by *Messrs Mansfield*... It shows, however, a building two storeys high, the architectural details of which may be described, we suppose, as *Italian*... The walls are going up in the blue whinstone of the neighbourhood, with dressings in brick and freestone, and will be cemented... At present about a dozen hands, masons, bricklayers and quarrymen are employed on the work."

Kiama Independent
August 20, 1880

Pilot's Cottage, lighting, gas

Kiama Pilots Cottage

While plans to construct a Pilot's Cottage were announced in December, 1879, the project proved slow-moving. Tenders for the project were not called until May, 1880, while work on the foundations was not begun until July. The successful applicant was Kiama business (Anton) Ettingshausen & Watkin - their tender of £835 being accepted.

On December 3, 1880, the *Kiama Independent* reported that the building, "a simple four-bedroomed cottage built of blue stone rubble", would be completed within a few weeks. In the meantime, the building's appearance and choice of building materials came in for a bit of criticism.

"...Like so many other Government undertakings, its design exhibits some peculiarities of questionable excellence. The site, of course, slopes considerably; and the foundation wall on the lower portion is some six feet high. This wall is to be cemented; consequently the building will exhibit a piebald appearance - the lower part white, the upper part black, as the rubble to exhibit its natural colour - a further admixture of colours being produced by the use of white bricks for the quoins, and dressing of doors and windows... if our friend, Mr Tulloch, should take possession of it when finished, we hope he may spend many prosperous days there. Perhaps he will find it worth his while to form a garden in the hollow so scientifically excavated near the house by one of the former contractors for the harbour works."

In August the following year, additions were made to the cottage by Mr Ettingshausen to make it "fit for occupation by a family, this being a verandah out the back with a room at each end - the room on the north-east corner being for a kitchen". A fence was erected but was yet to be paled.

Four months later it was reported that the rubble walls - which had attracted so much condemnation, had not stood the test of the weather and were found to leak: "...rain-water has been seen at the very pilotage driving upwards between the rails of the sashes and spouting up inside".

Street Lighting

The first street light in Kiama was lit at the corner of Manning and Terralong Streets after the Government was petitioned to provide safer conditions at the Kiama Post Office corner.

"...very shortly a large oil lamp will be hung in the north balcony and kept alight until 10pm every night." (*Kiama Independent*, June 22, 1880).

The light was, in fact, illuminated two months later, much to the approval of the local townsfolk.

"STREET ILLUMINATION - There has been hanging for a week or more, a lamp of such efficiency as to give a very favourable idea of what may be done in street lighting without gas. The illumination which this single lamp affords about its own particular corner must attract the special notice of everybody who has occasion to pass that way on a dark evening... The lighting of this lamp is, doubtless, an appreciable sign of civilisation."

Kiama Independent
September 14, 1880

Inspired by the addition, a number of Kiama business people petitioned Kiama Council to erect more street lamps throughout the town. The council, however, did not respond eagerly to the proposal.

"STREET LAMPS - The memorial on behalf of the erection of street lamps, which was at one of its meetings presented to the Municipal Council, and bore a large number of

miscellaneous signatures, was yesterday brought under consideration. After some discussion, it was resolved by Alderman Pike, to refer the document back again to the memorialists, in order that they might ascertain by actual canvass of the ward, whether the majority of the ratepayers were in favour of the project which might involve a special rate for the erection of the lamps."

Kiama Independent
January 14, 1880

As the community was to discover, street lighting would not be realised for another five years, not until after the establishment of a local gas works.

Kiama Gas Co (Ltd)

In August, 1883, an arrangement was "at last" made to establish a gasworks in Kiama. An agreement between Council and Messrs Tournay and Maltrop, trading as the Kiama Gas Company, had been signed and work on the project was started immediately.

The five year lease agreement involved laying mains for 300 burners in local streets and households, together with another 200 for local businesses and churches. It was estimated that up to 600 lights would be "switched on" within 12 months of the project's launch.

"...The Company are bound to make all reasonable despatch in such operations requiring the opening of streets, pathways etc, and on completion to carry away all waste or surplus material and rubbish, and render such streets, drains etc as nearly as possible in the same condition as it was in previously, and during the continuance of such work the said Company shall set up sufficient barriers, and keep lights burning at night in order to prevent accidents. The Company further agrees that the cost of the gas to the ratepayers and residents within the bounds of the town of Kiama shall not exceed 11s (\$1.10) per 1000 cubic feet."

Kiama Independent
August 14, 1883

No sooner had the framework of the gasworks been erected in Shoalhaven Street than, in January 1884, the project was thrown into chaos. Mr Maltrop suddenly decided to dissolve the partnership, leaving Mr Tournay with the whole responsibility and insufficient means to complete the work.

Believing that the company would be an ultimate success and having already spent £820 on the project, Mr Tournay formed a joint stock company under the Limited Liabilities Act. This placed the completion of the work and the future management under the supervision of a local board of directors. Accordingly, he invited a number of leading citizens and business people of the town to meet him at the gas works in the hope of encouraging them to join the board.

Those gentlemen who responded included J Colley Esq (Mayor), C Cameron Esq, JP and MN Hindmarsh Esq, JP and H Whittingham Esq (banker), and Messrs G Hunt, J Honey and J Weston. The books were laid out together with projected costs and incidentals. Mr Tournay offered to donate £600 to the project, provided he was given the opportunity to lease the Gas Works or, alternatively, paid to manage the concern, including cleaning and lighting lamps at £7 a week.

Mr Tournay's presentation was highly convincing and prompted the assembled gentlemen to start a company, with shares available at £5 each. Shares were to be offered to local residents - the consumers - so that they would reap the most benefit either in lowered gas prices or in profit dividends. Mr Colley



The Pilot's Cottage around the turn of the century. The stone hoppers are in the foreground.

was appointed chairman of the company and Mr Whittingham secretary pro tem. Before long, a promised share list of £1600 was attained.

Within the month the project was back on track and gas pipes began to line the local streets. Shares totalling £665 were collected and this, added to Mr Tournay's £600, brought the capital to £1265. Optimism was high that the total £3000 would be realised.

In March, a meeting of shareholders was held in the Council Chambers to elect, by ballot, 11 new directors for the ensuing 12 months. In all, 603 votes were recorded and those elected were: James Colley 81 votes, Henry Whittingham 81, MN Hindmarsh 78, AA Tournay 65, DL Dymock 58, Dr JH Caird 58, George Hunt 37, James Somerville 36, J Pike 24, J Weston 20, GK Waldron 19, (Those who missed out were John Honey 13, George Tory 13, John Stewart 7, George Knight 5, Henry Russell 5, and G Walker 3).

By May the town was poised for illumination. Those residents and business owners proposing to burn gas at their premises had been supplied with the requisite fittings while most had been connected to the gas main by service pipes and their meters were fixed. Mr Tournay, meantime, was reported to be doing well in his new position as manager of the gas works.

June 28, 1884, was a momentous occasion in the history of Kiama when the streets of the CBD were lit for the very first time. From the report published in the *Kiama Independent* on July 4, the town was lit like a Christmas tree.

"KIAMA LIGHTED WITH GAS
MAYOR LIGHTS THE FIRST LAMP"

ON Saturday night the streets of Kiama, and the town generally, were for the first time lighted with gas. Several of the places of business were brightly illuminated, notably Messrs Knight and Wilmott's shop in Terralong-street; and the town wore an altogether brighter and more lively appearance. The gas proved to be of excellent quality, and burned with a brilliant flame. The ceremony of lighting the first street lamp

was performed by his Worship the Mayor, James Colley Esq JP, in front of Mr W Clarke's boot shop in Manning-street, at about seven o'clock, in the presence of a large crowd of spectators. Three cheers

that the people of Kiama have any amount of pluck and energy to carry out those works, but also they have plenty of money," the Mayor quipped, prompting laughter from the gathering.

were then given for the Mayor and also for Mr Tournay (the manager of the gas company). The Mayor, in responding, said that this was one of the most important public events that had ever taken place in Kiama."

Mr Colley said that while the lights were a great advance, the town "must not stop there". He said that the footpaths required asphaltting and a "proper and scientific system of sewerage" was needed. "The fact that over £3000 had been subscribed in three hours by the residents for the formation of a gas company shows



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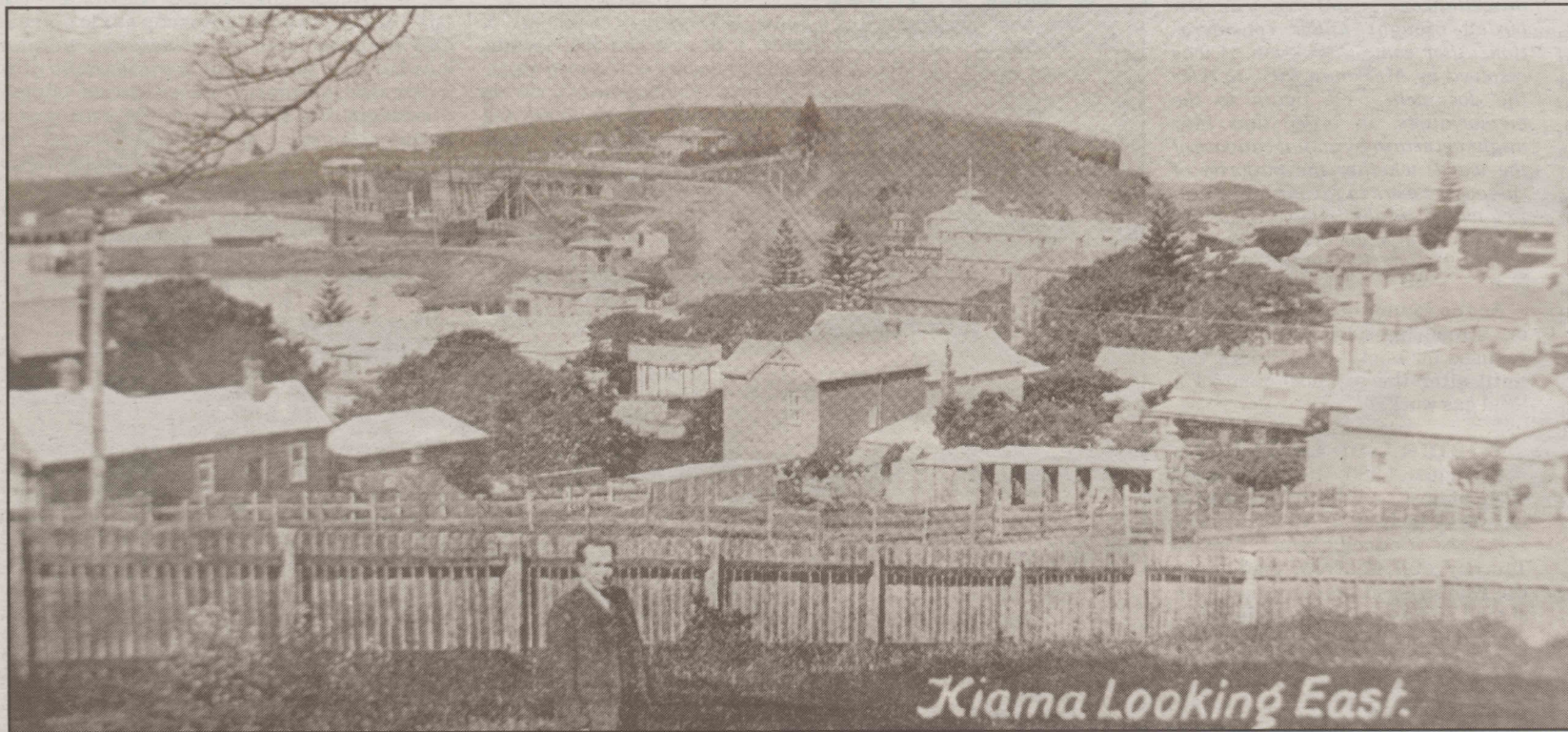
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Schools, roads, town pump



Kiama before the Lighthouse

This photograph - a view of Kiama looking east to Blowhole Point from the top of Shoalhaven Street - was taken in the early 1880s, before the construction of the Kiama Lighthouse. Note the blue metal hoppers in Kiama Harbour and the many timber homes springing up around the town.

Photo: Brian Holmes Collection.

Kiama Looking East.

Schools/Education

IN June, 1880, a proposal to build a new public school on Osborne Hill at Jamberoo was listed in the *Government Gazette*. This was followed in October by a notice of intention to build a primary school at Woodhill, near Broughton Creek, and an 'evening school' at Broughton Vale.

Three years later, in April 1883, the Department of Education approved an upgrade to the Kiama Public School which included two weathersheds, stone steps, asphaltting to the grounds and sloping of the embankment.

In June, 1884, a meeting was held at David Lindsay Dymock's office for the purpose of establishing a Grammar School in Kiama. An "influential committee" was appointed, consisting of Mayor James Colley Esq JP (chairman), Charles Cameron JP, Henry Fredericks JP, MN Hindmarsh JP, Stephen Major, Rev J Wilson, George Hunt, Samuel McClintock, Robert Hindmarsh and DI Dymock (secretary).

From support already given, it was determined that sufficient numbers could be enrolled to establish a first-class school for boys and another for girls - "a want Kiama has long laboured under and which should receive the support of all".

"...It is intended to thoroughly ventilate the matter and this, with the growing importance of the district and the prospect of early rail-

way communication, will pave the way for seminaries of extensive proportion, which will doubtless be patronised by the residents of the metropolis as well as Kiama district, and commercially add to its value."

Kiama Independent
June 13, 1884

Footpaths

The citizens of Kiama Municipality surely knew their little township was surging ahead when the dirty, gravelled frontage to local shops and homes in the CBD were paved with tar for the comfort of pedestrians.

"FOOTPATHS - The paving of the sidewalk in front of the new Commercial Bank in Manning-street is on the point of completion, or perhaps actually completed. This kind of pavement is, of course, no novelty, though it has in the last year or two attracted an unusual amount of attention in this colony. It is, perhaps, when well-laid, preferable in some respects to almost any other kind that can be laid, its principal disadvantage being that it is liable to become heated in summer. It ought to be cheap in Kiama since the necessary material (except the tar), and of the best quality, exists in abundance on the spot."

Kiama Independent
June 1881

Roads

An unpleasant result of the flour-

ishing quarrying industry was the downgrade of Terralong Street which was converted into a stretch of slush during periods of heavy rain.

Relief arrived in March 1882 when Kiama Council accepted a tender to metal the stretch of roadway from the intersection of Collins Street west to the Flour Mill (Kiama Fair). The contract involved filling or metalling a hollow of seven or eight chains in length, and varying in breadth from about 20 to 30 feet. The area was also earmarked for kerb and guttering.

The laying of crushed blue metal unfortunately led to a new drama. In May, 1882, the business people of Terralong and Manning Streets called for the roads to be watered daily to alleviate the problems of dust coming from the road. A water cart was ordered for the job from Sydney, but it did not arrive soon enough for the likings of the public.

Aside from the storms, floods and droughts, it appears from the annals of the *Kiama Independent* that the Miller family of Gerringong endured a constant battle against the ebb and tide of the local ocean.

In August, 1880, it was reported that the main road through "Miller's Swamp" was "very much the reverse of gratifying".

"...a large portion of one of the finest properties in the district (is) destined, apparently, to become incorporated with the 'barren deep'.

The estate in question was, in its original condition, regarded as unprofitable swamp; but was reclaimed by the energy of its first purchaser, Mr R Miller; though, in consequence of its low level, it has always been liable to the inroads of a high tide or a heavy sea. The proprietors have usually been able to drain off the invading waters by means of a channel kept open by them from Weary Creek, across the northern extremity of the Gerringong Beach into the sea. But of late the great accumulation of sand at this spot... has rendered that particular expedient unavailable and the sea water which has from time to time during some months past found its way into Mr Miller's paddocks, is blocked there by the accumulated sand, giving them the appearance of again returning to unprofitable swamp, and at the same time filling the roadside ditches and submerging portions of the metalled road itself, the stability of which is in

consequence severely threatened."

Kiama Independent
August 10, 1880

The Government's Roads Superintendent was called upon to address "this very serious matter" and a new channel was proposed to relieve the situation. On the matter of funding the project - where both private and public interests were tied - the *Independent* suggested that the Government regard Mr Miller favourably as he had given "without compensation, about eight acres of the most valuable land in the district for the formation of the road across the swamp".

The Town Pump

At the opposite end of the scale, the water supply at the town pump located at "Colley's Swamps" (Woolworths) was in danger of drying up - and it had nothing to do with the forces of nature. The supply pipe was apparently being trampled by passing cattle, while local school children were deliberately blocking the pump with stones and mud. These children were also accused of "polluting" the water and threatening the quality of the supply, prompting strong comment from the *Independent*.

"...as if it were a matter of predestination that the poor pump should, like quondam kings of France, be always in trouble, he (Mr Colley) is threatened with serious evils from larrikinism on one hand and neglect on the other. The impishness of youngsters - chiefly on their way home from school, as is suspected - leaves them to practice their mischievous ingenuity for the destruction of the fabric of the pump and the pollution of the water with which it supplies them."

Kiama Independent
October 5, 1880

Unfortunately, this was not the end of the trouble and the pump was again targetted 12 months later. The *Independent* concurred with the prevailing opinion that, to counteract the problem, the pump should be enclosed by a "larrikin proof" paling fence, that licenses should be issued for carting water and that each licensee be given a key to the gate.

By April, 1884, it is reported that two water pumps were located in Kiama central - the one in Terralong Street (Colley's) and the other in Shoalhaven Street, next to the newly opened gas works. The Terralong Street supply was reported as being more preferable and its usage was increased following the installation of a double-cylinder pump for the public's convenience.

The new crank enabled the pipes to be filled in a shorter space of time, resulting in a considerable amount of labour (in the pumping action) being saved. As part of the project, the well was also cleaned out - a fortunate move as it was found to contain two feet of mud and debris at the bottom.

The pump project, financed by local businessman Mr Bullen, was voted as "one of the best public works in the town of Kiama". This was until the following week when the surrounding rock wall collapsed in a deluge of rain. Poor workmanship was blamed. Fortunately, the platform and crank were left standing.

But this was not the end of the problems. In the summer of 1884, mechanical problems took the well out of operation, placing heavy demands on the Shoalhaven Street outlet. At one stage, eight carts were reportedly lined up at the well, waiting for up to three hours to be serviced. Mr Bullen admitted blame, he being unable to find suitably skilled labour to fix the well.

Land sales

In May, 1881, Jamberoo witnessed an historic land sale when allotments laid out in front of the farm owned by John Tate were sold as an eastern extension to the village. Twenty two front lots, extending along the road from "Blind Davey's Lane to Golden Gully Lane" and containing, except for two which were larger, one sixth of an acre each, were sold for an average price of nearly £20 each.

In March, 1883, a half-acre allotment in Shoalhaven Street and owned by Samuel Charles Esq went under the hammer. The property was billed as a magnificent site for a residence, besides commanding a beautiful aspect.

First lady Bachelor of Arts

A "red letter day" in the history of Melbourne University and, indeed, the women's movement, came in December 1883 with the announcement that Bella Guerin had been admitted as the first lady Bachelor of Arts. "A LADY BACHELOR OF ARTS ...Miss Guerin received quite an enthusiastic greeting when she rose to accept her degree. She wore the orthodox cap and gown, and seemed partly at ease in her novel position."

Melbourne Argus
April 8, 1884

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Progress, tramway, gold?

Stately homes

KIAMA'S appearance was enhanced in August 1884 by the completion of *Brighton Villa*, located at the junction of Manning and Bong Bong Streets.

"...It reminds us much of the style of buildings commonly erected as residences at bathing places and sea side dwellings in the old country; and there is only one in the town that we consider superior to it in its own particular style, and that is the present dwelling of the Misses Black, near the Manse, at the junction of Shoalhaven and Bong Bong streets. The design and plan of 'Brighton Villa' is, we understand, by Mr J Smedley, architect of Sydney. It has a spacious hall from back to front, with five rooms on one side and four on the other, namely sitting and dining rooms, three bedrooms, servants' room, kitchens, pantry, washhouse and lobby. It is of wood on stone foundation, the walls 12 feet high, the outside covered with rustic boards put on weatherboard fashion, and lined inside. It has a verandah in front nine feet wide."

Kiama Independent
August 12, 1884

Shark peril

Had moral codes not prohibited public bathing at the beaches along Kiama's coastline, a rural habit of throwing dead livestock off the local cliffs would have certainly put paid to any hopes of taking a leisurely dip. Aside from the risk of swimming into the carcass of decaying cattle and horses, there was also the associated hassle of sharks visiting for their regular meal.

"LARGE SHARK - Between three and four o'clock on Sunday afternoon a large number of the townspeople (about 150) visited the cliff of rocks which form the entrance to the Blowhole, for the purpose of seeing a large shark which had been loitering about the place during the greater part of the day, seeking to devour the carcass of a horse which had, the day previously, been thrown over the precipice of that place - a spot which is found very convenient for such purposes... and attempt was made to destroy the shark by means of throwing stones, about 50 pounds weight, but the missiles failed to strike the mark... At this juncture, Mr O'Connor, a young gentleman who is on a temporary visit to Kiama and who, it appears was ignorant that his act was in contravention of the law, procured a gun and essayed to shoot the monster (12 feet in length); but finding that the shark, after his return with the gun, had become more wary and did not again show himself on the surface of the water, discharged his piece at the carcass by way of amusement."

Kiama Independent
December 13, 1881

Kiama Progress Association

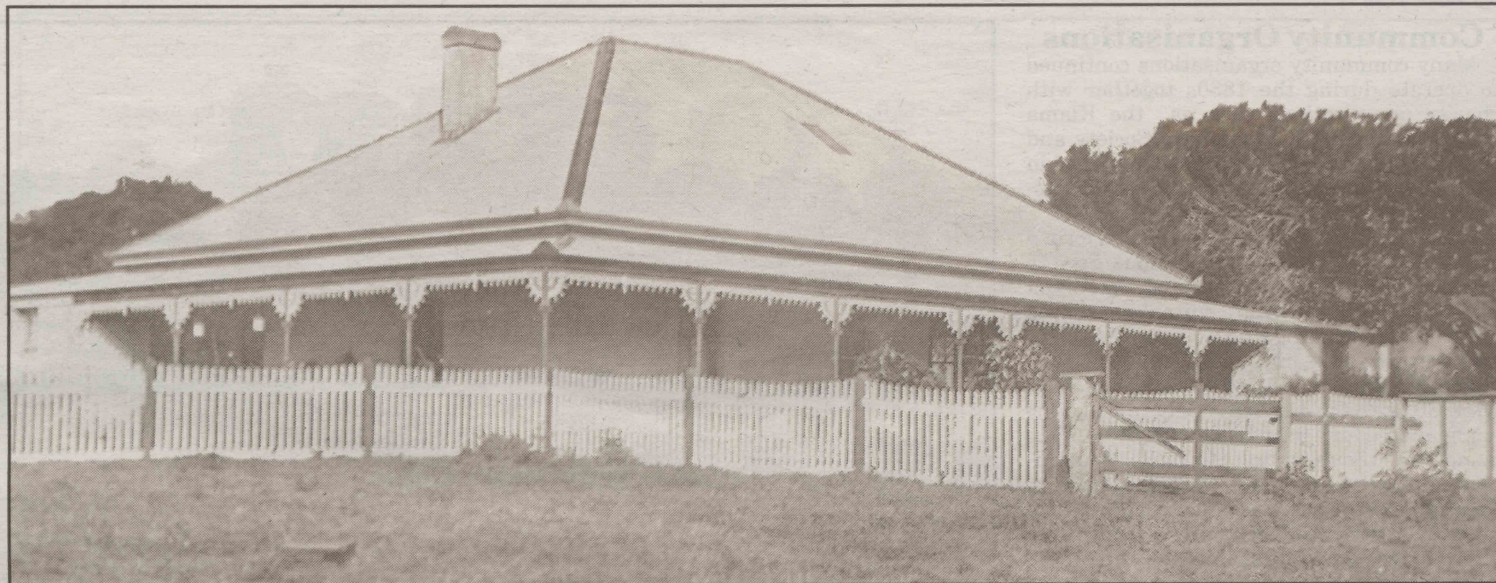
In June, 1883, Kiama received one of its greatest boosts to civic development with the

Electricity

The science of electricity is taken for granted today, which makes the writings of this Victorian scribe all the more interesting. It makes one wonder about the man's response if he was suddenly confronted by a microwave oven or laptop computer. (Will someone make the same judgement of our own 'naive' assessment 120 years from now? Probably.)

"THE probable application of electricity as a motive power cannot be overstated. What is a visionary dream one year becomes an accomplished fact the next. To tell a man of the last generation that it would be possible to transmit sound one hundred miles away would be to lay oneself open to a charge of insanity. To have said the railroad cars would be driven by this unseen power would have meant a straight jacket. And yet every fresh discovery points to a not distant time when most of the motive force now derived from steam will be supplied by electricity. Edison, who has done more than any man living to make this subtle force the handmaid of man, prophesied that, within his own lifetime, steam will have to take its place alongside the old devices of brute strength; and cities be lighted, trains driven and factory machines kept going, by the application of this force. Unlike coal, the electrical force is inexhaustible."

Kiama Independent, October 14, 1884



Kiama's Happy Villa which is still located next to Kiama High School.

establishment of a Progress Association. The association was formed at a meeting held in the Kiama Council Chambers and chaired by the Mayor, James Colley Esq. Mr Colley said that, over the next two to three years, "great changes" were anticipated with the construction of the Illawarra Railway, the Kiama tramway (for quarrying), lighting of the town with gas, and an efficient system of sewage.

A recommendation that the association be formed was put by Mr Joseph Weston, proprietor of the *Kiama Independent*. In doing so, Mr Weston said that he "heartily" supported such an organisation as it would assist the Municipal Council and other constituted authorities, and would "in no sense be antagonistic".

He then launched an argument which continues in the *Kiama Independent* to this day - 120 years later - about the need for "efficient sewage" throughout the whole of Kiama Municipality.

"...The present company do not need to be told that there were two or three places in the town where the back drainage which ought to be conducted into an underground sewer founds its way into the water-tables and was sufficient to cause pestilence (Mr Weston said)."

Kiama Independent
June 15, 1883

Mr A Yates seconded the motion saying that he had been an advocate for progress for the past 15 years, but his efforts had been single-handed. He supported Mr Weston's sentiments saying that the matter of sewage had been so neglected that he "could not say that the Council was blameless". He said that, in his own neighbourhood, there had been for the past five years "several dangerous cesspits that polluted the air for a quarter of a mile round".

A Progress Committee was then appointed, consisting of S Major, MN Hindmarsh, N Harper, H Whittingham, A Yates, JW May, JF Tyter, J Weston, J Simmons, S McClintock and R Christmas.

Kiama Tramway

The first sod of the Kiama tramway project was turned by the Mayor, James Colley, in August 1883, before a gathering of 20 gentlemen. The ceremony was "unexpected", it coming just one day after the contract for the execution of the project had been entered into by Council.

The laying of the tramway was described as a "bold stroke" and was "the first step towards superseding such primitive modes of traction as the bullock dray and the tip cart". Mayor Colley issued hopes for the line's success and that it would be of great benefit to the trade and commerce of the district.

Independent on the move

In August, 1883, the *Kiama Independent* marked a milestone of its own, relocating from Market Square to a new timber premises in Shoalhaven Street. As the completion of the office

occurred almost simultaneously with the 21st anniversary of the newspaper, a social gathering was held in the new building to mark the event. A social tea was served to 70 guests - comprising staff and "a fair admixture of young and old" - in the large room on the ground floor and under the superintendance of Mrs Weston.

Kiama Lighthouse

The first mention of Kiama Lighthouse was made only fleetingly during a discussion at Kiama Municipal Council when it was announced that "£2000 had been voted for a light-house at Kiama".

Chapman Point

At that same meeting it was announced that £1000 had been made available to convert "Chapman's Point" into a recreation ground. It was noted that the Kiama Agricultural & Horticultural Society had previously "applied for that point", but it was refused on account of the area being targeted for public recreation.

"Gold" in Kiama

In August, 1884, Kiama became the subject of a practical joke when the *Evening News* reported that gold had been found at Blowhole Point.

"A gold mine has been opened at the Blow Hole Hill, Kiama. Quartz obtained from the vicinity realised 75oz per ton. The land has been pegged out for some distance, and it appears probable that a rush will shortly ensue."

This was all news to the residents of Kiama who knew of no such mine. Further investigation revealed that the report had been prompted by a couple of town larrikins who had pegged out several imaginary 'claims' at the Point on the weekend prior to the news report. The rest of the story simply snowballed from there.

Society & Everyday Living

A competition between rival steam ship-

ping companies saw the announcement of cut-price travel fares in May, 1880. For the cost of just £2, Kiama travellers could book a saloon ride to Melbourne, or £4 for a trip to Adelaide, while the steerage passage was £1 and £2 respectively.

The 'heavens' held particular fascination for those of the Victorian era and star gazing was a popular past-time. Interest was especially piqued in June, 1880, with total eclipse of the moon.

"ECLIPSE OF THE MOON - The total eclipse of the moon on Tuesday night was, owing to the beauty of the evening and the clearness of the atmosphere, a very pleasing sight. From an early hour a good many people walked the streets, enjoying themselves, especial interest being lent by the rather unusual phenomena. Hardly a cloud obscured the sky and from the first contact to the total eclipse which occupied about two hours from 10 till 12, every advantage was given to those who wished to view it... We hear that Mr Flodin succeeded in taking a photograph when the moon was partially eclipsed."

Kiama Independent
June, 1880

Most garments worn by the colonials were either tailor-made (if one could afford it), purchased via catalogue from Sydney, or made at home - as was the case with most townsfolk of Kiama - with fabrics and materials being bought locally or ordered in.

"JOURNAL OF FASHION - We have received a monthly number of Madame Weigel's 'Journal of Fashions', containing the newest and prettiest designs. This lady is famous for her cut paper patterns, with directions for use, which she forwards to all parts of the colonies, at very low charges, from her establishment at 161 King-street, Sydney, or 'Eastern Arcade', Melbourne. A to-be-continued story runs through the journal, adding a charm to its pages."

Kiama Independent
April 4, 1882

Jamberoo Pub welcomes Y2K

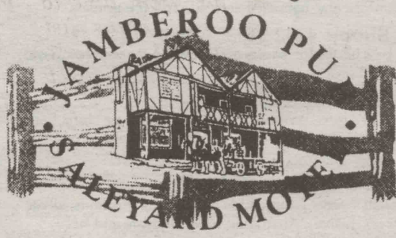
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Volunteer Infantry, leisure

Community Organisations

Many community organisations continued to operate during the 1880s together with charity organisations such as the Kiama Branch of the Bush Missionary Society and the Irish Famine Relief Fund - established in 1880 to "relieve their fellow subjects in distress".

A meeting held in February, 1880, to form a Young Men's Mutual Improvement Society resulted in a push to establish a Kiama School of Arts. As soon as a suitable room was found to hold meetings, a Debating Class was also proposed to be introduced.

The School was officially opened on June 25, 1880, with the Jamberoo Debating Society being invited for a friendly debate, the subject being "Was the execution of Charles I justifiable?" Jamberoo opened in the affirmative.

Despite its early success, the Kiama School of Arts experienced declining membership which led to its folding six months later.

"SCHOOL OF ARTS - The latest attempt to establish and carry on what is usually termed a 'School of Arts' in the town of Kiama, may be said to have been brought to a close when the committee... met at the Council Chamber for the purpose of taking into consideration the state of the institution. The course of events had left little room for 'musing and debate'. The institution had virtually died of inanition (for want of nourishment)."

Kiama Independent
December 10, 1880

A reprieve followed, though, and while the school was never able to attract significant membership, it continued to function alongside its associated debating club throughout the 1880s. In August, 1884, it was reported that the club debated the topical question, "Should the Jamberoo and Southern Wards of



Kiama Volunteer Corps

An early photograph of the Kiama Volunteer Corps - possibly taken in the early 1870s. The only known member of this group is Lieutenant Henry Honey (seated third from right).

PHOTO: Geoff Honey Collection.

the Kiama Municipality contribute towards the cost of lighting the streets of Kiama?"

In April, 1882, long-talked of hopes of establishing an amateur dramatic club were brought to fruition. The Kiama Amateur Dramatic Club was organised in connection with the Kiama Mutual Improvement Society and under the energetic leadership of its manager, Mr Moffatt. The first performance - a program comprising "drama, comedy and a farce" was held in the Kiama Temperance Hall to great reviews. This was followed by a performance at the Protestant Hall, Jamberoo, one week later.

The Jamberoo Library Association continued to meet the demands of its residents by securing a box of 60 volumes from the Trustees of the Free Public Library in Sydney.

For an entrance fee of half a crown, residents had access to such works as *Letters of Dickens*, *Bryant's Practice of Surgery*, *Draper's American Civil War*, *Jameson's History of Our Lord*, *Hall's Second Arctic Expedition* and *Glaisher's Travels in the Air*.

Volunteer Infantry

The Kiama Volunteer Rifle Corps was continued by John Black until his death in 1881. The movement lapsed until November, 1881, when calls were made for a company of volunteer militia to be formed in Kiama. Fifty signatures were collected with hopes the numbers would reach as high as 60.

It was not until September, 1883, though, that the volunteer corps was established. A meeting was held three months earlier, in June, to discuss the formation of the Corps. In attendance was local MP, Dr Tarrant, who said that funding had been made available by the Government for the establishment of Volunteers Corps in country towns and that a drill instructor, accoutrements and uniform would be supplied on application. Speakers at the meeting included Mr H Honey, a volunteer of 11 years experience, and Messrs

S McClintock, JF Tyter, JW May and J Weston.

On September 7 it was reported that:-

"The Governor...has been pleased to give authority, under the 15th section of the Volunteer Force Regulation Act of 1867, for the formation of a Voluntary Infantry Corps for the town of Kiama... The corps will be formed in connection with Jamberoo as well as Kiama and belong to the second Regiment NSW Volunteer Infantry."

The reformed Corps held its first drill in October with about 60 recruits gathering in the agricultural society's buildings under the instruction of Sgt Tuile. Many of the town's "most intelligent and highly respectable young men" together with a "sprinkling of the members of the old Rifle Corps" were in attendance.

Sport & Leisure

The travelling circus grew to become a regular feature of entertainment in Kiama Municipality with shows being provided by a variety of companies.

"Mr Burton's Circus" was a much welcomed attraction to the Kiama area, the *Kiama Independent* reporting as a lead-up to the troupe's visit in April, 1880, that 'Mr Burton's name has always been a guarantee for clever performances without the slightest taint of vulgarity - too often the drawback of strolling players'. The circus visited the area for two shows and, as can be seen from the following report, the entertainment did not include dancing bears and performing lions but was based on acrobatics and performances by domestic animals.

"BURTON'S CIRCUS - This talented troupe performed here on Tuesday evening and, notwithstanding the inclement appearance of the weather, there was a moderate attendance... The performances of the boy, Cousins, was especially elegant and, though he was evidently tired, some of his feats were astonishingly clever. The dogs also came in for a very large share of fame. The rest of the troupe all lent their aid towards keeping up 'the interest', and those who have not seen them have lost a chance of seeing one of the best exhibitions that has visited the district."

Kiama Independent
April 9, 1880

While most circus outfits featured acrobatics and clowns as its main event, "St Leon's Circus", which visited in November, 1883, exhibited "a number of wild animals" including "a very large, noble-looking tiger", a leopard and several black bears. The most popular drawcard for local audiences, however, was a pair of domesticated camels.

Despite the opening of a public bath in Kiama, the colonials still had a distance to travel before unsegregated bathing became an accepted aspect of coastal living. Still, there was always that rebellious element who tempted fate - and forced the courts into action, as evidenced by the following article. One can only guess what 'disgusting' display was perpetrated by one of the rebels in question.

"BATHING - We would call attention to the late judgement of the magistrates reported in another column in connection with the lads who were brought up for bathing in an exposed place. Both Mr Hindmarsh JP and the police stated it was a frequent occurrence and Mr Hindmarsh, especially, said that one case he had witnessed was very disgusting. The magistrates have widely determined to put a stop to it and we would strongly advise those who relish the luxury of a bath to choose seasonable times and places for it."

Kiama Independent
April 23, 1880

The 1870s closed with the establishment of a roller skating rink at the Kiama Temperance Hall (today's Masonic Hall in Collins Street) and this past-time grew from strength to strength, the hall being opened each Saturday night for the purpose.

"SKATING - From time immemorial one of the most exhilarating and healthful exercises which have been indulged in by the human race has undoubtedly been skating. As a past-time it is full of enjoyment, and as a means of expanding the muscles and assisting the body to maintain a natural vigour it is pre-eminent. To skate upon real ice is, with us, of course impossible; but mechanism has been brought to our aid, and the modern idea of wheels on the feet give a capital resemblance."

Kiama Independent
June 4, 1880

Also held at the hall were "Quadrille" parties which, it appears from the name, entailed a form of square dancing. In April, 1883, one such party was held at the hall and attended by 30 couples who danced to music provided by the Kiama Brass Band. A "most enjoyable evening was spent", with the party dancing until midnight.

Entertainment was also provided by a travelling, Japanese troupe which demonstrated feats in "jugglery and tight or slack rope dancing" which was described by the *Kiama Independent* as being "among the wonders of the world".

In November, 1880, Kiama was visited by a national celebrity, Azella, the champion lady pedestrienne of Australia, who performed an act of extraordinary physical endurance under circumstances which could only be described as unusual.

"PEDESTRIANISM - ...Azella, the champion lady pedestrienne of Australia, commenced her feat of walking 76 miles in 26 hours in the Temperance Hall... Ropes were fixed around the hall, leaving a space of three feet for the lady to walk. The distance was measured and 42 laps had to be traversed to complete one mile. A board was fixed on the stage and each mile was posted up, several gentlemen kindly assisting in keeping the tally. At 20 minutes past eight the lady appeared in a neat and becoming costume, and at precisely 22 minutes past commenced her task, continuing on the 'track' till three o'clock on Saturday morning, when she retired, having completed 28 miles. She was admired by all for the ease and grace with which she walked. She did not appear again until 20 minutes to 10am, from which time she walked until about one, when the board showed 50 miles to her credit... At a quarter past nine she had covered 80 miles, being four miles over the specified distance, and completed in one hour and five minutes less than 26 hours."

Kiama Independent
November 9, 1880

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53080

Sport, religion & Temperance

Sport

AZELLA'S efforts appeared to inspire a local sport in the Kiama area. In April, 1882, a "walking match" was contested between A Phillips, of Jamberoo, and T Lees of Gerringong. With such a great expanse of open space to choose from in the municipality, it is interesting to note that the match - some 12 miles in length - was conducted at Mr Tate's Hotel at Jamberoo. The match - and the prizemoney of £10 - was won by Phillips.

On the cricketing front, relations between Australia and England were not good - and it had nothing to do with the sound "thrashings" the Australians were administering against England's County teams during the northern summer of 1880. According to the following item, larrikinism had brought the team into disrepute and the first-class sides had refused to play against them.

The article does not elaborate on the nature of the larrikinism, but the *Kiama Independent* suggests that, during the next of Australia by the British, "professional umpires be used".

"CRICKET - Our Australian cricketers seem to be carrying all before them in England. The thrashings which have been administered to the County teams they have already encountered are about as severe as the most ardent lovers of colonial prowess could wish. There is, however, one phase of the matter which must be considered. The matches have all been against second-rate clubs, so that the victories lose somewhat of their brilliancy. Unfortunately, the display of larrikinism which disturbed the cricket element when Lord Harris was out here is still felt in England and very few of the higher clubs will acknowledge the Australians."

Kiama Independent
June 4, 1880

In Kiama, we note that yet another effort was made to establish a Kiama Cricket Club - in December, 1880. It is evident from the number of occasions a cricket club has been 'got up' then collapsed in Kiama over the previous 30 years, that maintaining such a set-up was a difficult business indeed.

Nevertheless the game continued and was especially strong as a school sport. In 1883 the talents of the Kiama Public School team was regularly pitted against a team comprising "the boys who live in Barney-Street", with matches being played "on the Church Point" (Kiama Showground).

Further "south", the Broughton Creek cricket club appeared to be thriving, it playing in a southern competition and being pitted against clubs such as Milton, Nowra and Terrara.

Despite its tribulations, the game of cricket was far more favoured as a recreational endeavour than that of football. Little or no mention of this sport had been made in the *Kiama Independent* until April, 1883, when efforts were made to get the game going. From the following we are given some indication of why the sport was yet to be pursued in the area.

"FOOTBALL - A meeting is to be held in the Council Chambers on Monday evening next with the object of forming a football club in Kiama. Perhaps of all the national sports and past-times, the game of football has been the most abused and misused, and in consequence of this, many persons are prejudiced against it. But the game itself is not objectionable."

Kiama Independent
April 20, 1883

It appears one of the most patronised illegal pastimes during the 1880s was cockfighting. The following item concentrates on Sydney, giving the impression that the "sport" was not such a problem in Kiama.

"...Numbers of game cocks are kept in various localities and 'mains' are decided much more frequently than most people would be aware. The facilities afforded by the environs of the metropolis allow these gallinacious contests to be fought with comparative impunity. Considerable amounts occasionally depend on the results. The police having purified the moral atmosphere of the main thoroughfares of the city might devote a little of their spare time to put an end to this barbarous so-called 'sport'."

Kiama Independent
July 18, 1881

Horse racing had been a popular past-time in Kiama Municipality from its inception and race meetings were regularly held at venues including Toolijooa and "Monkey Flat" on the



Saint Oswald's Church Bombo

This rare photograph depicts the humble interior of Saint Oswald's Church at Bombo which was built on the northern hillside - no doubt primarily for use by the many quarrymen of the area. The church is no longer standing.

Photo: Geoff Honey Collection.

Eureka Estate (the site of today's Kiama Golf Club). As can be seen from the following, the winner's purse was quite substantial.

"EUREKA RACES - Friday next is the day appointed for the holding of a race meeting on the old Eureka course, Monkey Flat.. the principal event of the day will be the trotting match of three miles between Pike's and Daw's mares for £100 (\$250)... Both the nags have been in active training... It will be observed that Mr Rastery's coach will ply between Kiama and the course on that day."

Kiama Independent
April 17, 1883

On the national front, the first bicycling match in the colony was held in March, 1884, at Mr P Noonan's Hotel, Castlereagh Street, Sydney, between TH Chapman of Sydney and J Rolfe, of Melbourne, champion of Australia.

Religion

On March 9, 1880, the opening of the Protestant Hall at Jamberoo - which attracted more than 600 residents - was reported in great detail, almost the entire local news section of the *Kiama Independent* being dedicated to the event.

Church picnics continued as the highlight of the social/family character with hundreds of people attending.

"GERRINGONG - The annual picnic in connection with the Roman Catholic community here took place on Saturday last in the grounds adjoining the chapel. The day was beautifully fine and all that could be desired by pleasure-seekers. At an early hour pedestrians and equestrians in great numbers were to be seen coming from all parts of the district, and at about 12 o'clock there could not have been less than 400 persons present."

Kiama Independent
August 20, 1880

At Broughton Creek, the Presbyterian Church School was officially opened in March, 1884, by the Rev Dr Steel, followed by a public tea meeting.

Temperance

The anti-alcohol movement spilled over into the 1880s and it appears from the following item, published in March, 1880, that the movement had impacted on Canada, with extraordinary results.

"BAD NEWS FOR LIQUOR - Our numerous friends among the Sons of Temperance will hear with satisfaction that in different parts of the world a great and determined move is being made against the abuses of strong drink. Father Henneberry is lecturing with unqualified success at Bathurst, and by the papers from there we note that he has had a demonstration of 1400 persons who, by the power of his eloquence, have been persuaded to take the pledge. At the same time from our fellow colonists in Canada we learn that in every one of the thirteen constituencies in Canada where the liquor question has been put to the vote, drink has been banished for three years."

Kiama Independent
March 16, 1880

In May, the battle against the granting of a third liquor licence in Kiama continued with yet another public protest meeting being held. Letters published in the *Kiama Independent* indicate the depth of emotion felt on this matter - and the support for calls to have residents decide the fate of a liquor licence application, rather than the courts.

"A third public house in Kiama: Sir - I was very much please to observe by your issue of Tuesday that the mothers of Kiama are not indifferent to the question of a third public house being opened in this town. How many mothers even in this little township are today weeping over the ruin that the love of strong drink has brought upon their husbands and sons, who instead of spending their evenings at home, may be found night after night, and until a late hour in the night, at one or other of the public houses - husbands who promised to love and cherish her whom they now neglect and abuse, and sons who once filled their mother's heart with bright hopes but are now breaking it and blasting it by the downward course they have pursued since they were first tempted to taste the intoxicating drink. (Signed) PATER FAMILIAS"

Kiama Independent
June 4, 1880

The *Independent* carefully followed the Legislative Assembly's debate on the "Licensing Act Amendment Bill", adding its own observations along the way. In April, 1883, as the government debated a "second reading" of the Bill, the newspaper concurred with detractors that it did not go far enough in its actions and that "what people with half an eye can see (is) that, in its entirety, the Bill would be a piece of legislation in the personal interests of a small section of the population - the trades union men - legislation, indeed, in favour of the drink traffic and against the National interest".

The current act prohibited Sunday or "Sabbath" trading except for travellers who had journeyed more than five miles to the respective hotel but the *Independent* disputed its effectiveness.

"...As it appears, the argument is valueless because in fact we have had no Sunday closing. It is sheer folly to charge Sunday closing with an increased consumption of drink when it is known that thousands and tens of thousands of people have found but little difficulty in travelling the five miles to get drink... in the country, horse parties have gone out to neighbouring villages and roadside hotels in order to obtain drink... Let us have Sunday closing as real and complete as it is possible to make it."

And then there was this:-

"...While agreeing with Mr (Henry) Parkes in his remarks just referred to, we cannot accept his views respecting the employment of young women as barmaids. There is a taint about the traffic which is bound to assert itself no matter how much it is covered up with the

apparent respectability of showy dresses and pretty faces; and like Sir Henry, we venture to assert that for every young woman who becomes a barmaid and retains her respectability, some half dozen of her less-reliant sisters engaged in the occupation miserably fall."

As pure of thought as the Temperance movement was, its moral stance did not go far enough for some residents. In May, 1883, a puritanical "Good Templar" from Jamberoo warned people of an impending ball to be held by the Sons of Temperance - because it involved dancing.

"THE EVILS OF DANCING: Sir - I regret to observe that a ball is about to be held under the auspices of the Sons of Temperance, Shellharbour; and against this impending evil we, as good Templars, should lift our warning voice, as, while it can do no manner of good, it is very likely to cause a great deal of injury. I am friendly to every harmless amusement and have no wish to curtail the rational enjoyments of either young or old... whatever may be the sentiments of the Sons of Temperance regarding the harmlessness of promiscuous dancing as a pastime, I am decidedly of opinion that to introduce it as an entertainment is most improper and unwise. The world is divided into two great parties on the subject of dancing, one maintaining from scripture that it is immoral, the other that it is quite harmless; and if abstinence societies patronise balls, they in effect decide that one of these parties which includes very eminent and pious persons, is wrong... This latter circumstance is of itself a sufficient reason why we should abstain from dancing at any of our amusements."

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Central dairy market, milk co-op

LOCAL farmers' efforts to have a central market and storage area established in Sydney were continued to ensure that local produce was kept in good condition prior to sale.

The news that "a large and influential deputation" had waited on the Mayor of Sydney to establish a "dead meat market" was met with consternation by the *Kiama Independent* which believed that the establishment of a butter market should be given first priority for the sake of the health and comfort of Sydney's inhabitants, and for the prosperity of local farmers.

The *Independent's* sharp editorials were backed by letters from a local gentleman known only as "Dairyman". History was to prove that *Dairyman* was in fact the newspaper's proprietor, Joseph Weston, who penned his thoughts incognito (not uncommon for letter writers of the time) whenever a more personal viewpoint was required. Joseph not only encouraged co-operation to reduce market costs, but the establishment of a central agency and an export trade.

While Kiama's initial efforts to export butter to Britain were unsuccessful, it did not dissuade the interest of local farmers who were convinced that the Illawarra's commercial success lay in exportation of its produce. Accordingly, the Kiama A and H Society launched a new scheme "for the sale and export of colonial produce".

"...How to place in the English market the largest proportion practicable of Illawarra produce, and in the best possible condition is, we apprehend, the most important question in this business... For the exportation scheme in general, we are inclined to believe that according as it is, energetically pressed, or apathetically neglected, will be in the immediate future the chances of wealth or poverty - prosperity or comparative ruin for the district of Illawarra."

Kiama Independent
August 20, 1880

In October, 1880, a conference was held at Kiama Courthouse for the purpose of discussing the establishment of both a central market and co-operative. The conference was organised by the Kiama A & H Society and attended by more than 100 dairy farming delegates from throughout the South Coast and as far south as Ulladulla. The meeting was chaired by David Lindsay Dymock, president of the A & H Society and was launched into action amid cheers from those present.

Mr J Black moved the first resolution:- "That in the opinion of this



An early photograph of Honey's dairy farm at Riversdale, looking east.

Photo: Geoff Honey Collection.

congress of representatives from the South Coast and West Camden districts it is desirable to establish in Sydney a Central Butter Market on the co-operative principle for the sale and export of farm and dairy produce".

Mr Black said that, with a management appointed in their own interests, the producers might maintain a proper control over transactions and regulate prices in some reasonable degree. Another benefit was that, if the Sydney market became saturated with the supply of butter - the principle article in question - supplies could be refrigerated at this central market until the demand improved. Alternatively it could be exported to England.

The introduction of refrigeration to shipping vessels augured well for a second, more successful attempt at exporting the butter and the meeting was urged to investigate this avenue.

A second resolution was moved by Mr James Monaghan: - "That the conditions of membership in the proposed co-operative company for the sale of farm and dairy produce shall be, that each member shall pay an entrance fee of £1 and guarantee the payment of an equal amount (if required) in installments of 2s 6d, when called upon".

Mr Robert Miller seconded the motion saying that, as one of the oldest residents of the district, he was "delighted to see such an

assemblage of representative men met to discuss the most important of its material interests". As a degree of debate ensued on the matter of the subscriptions, the issue was held over to a later date.

The co-operative, which became known as the South Coast and West Camden Co-operative Company Ltd, sold consignments valued at £125,000 in its first year and had 743 regular shippers. In 1884, the work of David Lindsay Dymock was recognised in this process at a testimonial dinner held in his honour.

Meantime, in November, 1880, the Kiama Butter Export Company began an exportation experiment to England, sending "a number of kegs containing in the aggregate about two ton of butter - of first class quality".

The butter was shipped on board the Orient Company's *Cotopaxi*. There was no frozen chamber available, but the casks were packed in a portion of the hold, where they were 15 feet or more below the water line and 35 feet from anything affected by the heat of the engine. This shipment was backed by another 40 casks containing two tons of butter.

In July 1881, another development is reported when correspondence arrives from London saying that butter may, without refrigeration, be profitably exported to England in ordinary vessels.

"...Mr James on the early part of the season shipping some casks to an acquaintance at St Ives, in

Cornwall, putting it on board ordinary cargo ships; and the correspondence in question shows that it not only arrives in excellent condition, but was highly esteemed among the retail Cornish buyers to whom it was offered... Mr James' shipment arrived at the termination of winter. In any case, however, the market at a small port, such as St Ives, would afford little indication of the state of things at London or Liverpool, or in the great manufacturing towns."

Kiama Independent
July 5, 1881

In October, the efforts of local town leaders together with the Kiama A & H Society saw the Illawarra Steam Navigation Company put on a steamer service which would leave Kiama every Tuesday evening for the sole purpose of transporting dairy produce to Sydney.

The need for fresh milk in Sydney saw the NSW Fresh Food & Ice Company seek supplies from Kiama. The first shipment of "morning's milk delivered pure and sweet to Kiama Harbour" was sent on April 1 on the steamer, *Prince of Wales*. The milk - 23 cans each containing 10 gallons - was supplied by S Marks, T Honey, H Robb, G Wood Jr, W Grey and D Weir and was placed on deck in iron tanks and packed with ice.

The milk was reported as having arrived in good condition, largely because efforts made by suppliers to first cool the produce. Success

with the project saw the supply of milk gradually increase to a tremendous 1500 gallons a day.

Efforts to improve the quality of local cattle were praised by the *Independent* in April 1883 when two farmers, Mr R Wilson of Foxground and Mr H Fredericks of Jamberoo, had made valuable purchases at sale in Sydney. Mr Wilson had bought a pure-bred Ayrshire heifer while the details of Mr Frederick's acquisition was yet to be announced.

In August, 1883, scandal hit the area when it was discovered that 50 kegs of New Zealand butter had been shipped to Gerringong on the *Dairymaid*, put through a local churn, then re-shipped to Sydney for sale. The news, which was at first dismissed as impossible, was later found to be true and caused a great deal of outrage among local farmers.

"...We believe in Free Trade, and have no objection to anyone buying in a cheap and selling in a dear market, but if the butter referred to has been brought to the district for the purpose - after being put through a Gerringong churn - of sending it to Sydney as district or Kiama butter, then we say that a more reprehensible scheme for lowering the character of the district and its staple product could not be devised."

Kiama Independent
August 10, 1883

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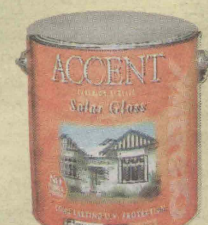
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Condensed milk & cheese

The Kiama & Gerringong Milk Condensing Co.

IN February, 1880, moves were made to establish a local milk condensing company by Major Black and Messrs Barry and Wheeler. The idea was supported by the farmers of the area in view of their recent, disappointing foray into shipping butter to England, and of the low prices fetched for that product.

The *Kiama Independent* said that there were many great advantages in favour of milk condensation as an industry in the district and urged the local farmers' support. A meeting to establish the company was held several weeks later in the Agricultural Hall, Blowhole Point, with "substantial and vigorous" interest in the movement being shown.

A committee was formed to investigate the feasibility of such a venture and, at a follow-up meeting, it was decided that the scheme was so beneficial to both the holders of shares and the producers that a sub-committee vested with the task of forming a provisional board of directors was formed.

"...We understand that nearly the whole of the shares have been applied for, but the committees have widely determined to make the company as much as possible a co-operative one, so that the farmers themselves will reap the advantages of its formation both ways. This will give it a far greater benefit to the district than if the shares were in the hands of large capitalists." (*Kiama Independent*, February 10, 1880)

Formation of the Kiama & Gerringong Milk Condensing Company followed two weeks later, and moves to float the company were discussed. On May 18, 1880, the company was floated, but few shares were taken up by those people who were thought to have the largest stake in the venture.

"MILK CONDENSING - ...We had hoped that it would have been a purely and solely co-operative company, in which 'all who helped in the creation of the wealth should have participated in a share of that wealth in exact proportion to their share in its creation'. However, even as it is, it will be of immense local benefit, as whatever promotes local industry will encourage local prosperity."

Kiama Independent
May 18, 1880

A meeting of shareholders was held in Sydney the following month when the company directors were elected, they being: Dr Harman J Tarrant, W Clarke Esq, and B James jun, Esq, of Sydney; and W Hindmarsh Esq and J Black Esq, as

"local gentlemen".

Orders for machinery were placed with Mort & Co. The factory and apparatus was expected to be erected within two months - at Omega - and would require a large team of bullocks to "drag" the five ton boiler over the local hills.

Indications for the demand of the condensed milk in the Sydney market were promising, the Sydney Coffee Palace, in particular, indicating that if the product was of good quality it would "use it instead of what they now have to put up with". Initial demand was also great in Queensland where a large number of shares had been taken up.

In August the *Kiama Independent* reported that the factory was well under construction and that the Manager, Mr Barry, with his assistant, Mr Martin, were "energetically working in readiness for the start of operations in the first week of October".

A trial operation of the milk preserving works in December saw the production of "specimens" which were forwarded by steamer to Sydney. The *Kiama Independent* noted, however, that several hitches at the plant meant that "the milk is not yet quite the thing for market". Hopes for the future of the venture were confirmed in January, 1881, however, when it is reported that the "Condensed Milk Works" was a "complete success".

In September, 1881, Mr SW Gray, on a return voyage to Europe, brought back "a person thoroughly conversant with the most improved processes in milk preserving" to ensure the continued operation of the Omega Factory, suggesting that perhaps the local process was still yet to be fully perfected.

In June, 1883, the assets and the lease of the factory were bought out by Mr JM Newnham who announced his intention to "carry on a cheese factory with the condensing business".

Cheese

Cheese was not such a hit in the Kiama area until 1881 when it was announced that a gentleman, Mr Harding, who was "skilled in the art of cheese making", "was now in this neighbourhood 'prospecting' the chances of establishing a similar factory near Kiama".

Mr Harding's involvement in the Kiama area was significant in that he paved the way for a new form of income and also arrived with great technical expertise. He encouraged farmers to adopt new practices to ensure their milk was of the very best quality. He lectured that a key to successful dairying was that the



Farmer and renowned local builder, JB Taylor, ploughs his Toolijooa property. Photo: Ken Miller.

milk be cooled as soon as possible after milking. He also espoused the benefits of investing a relatively new invention - the refrigerator.

He also provided instructions on the design of a factory which was to revolutionise the local dairying industry and finally provide farmers with the missing link which saw their first efforts at butter exportation fail during the 1870s.

Mr Harding arrived with fine credentials having previously managed Mort's Bodalla cheese factory. Most importantly, he was a hard taskmaster who let it be known that he would accept nothing less than quality produce from local farmers. At a meeting held at the Kiama Council Chamber - and attended by Messrs S & E Marks, T Fredericks, G & J Somerville, W Walmsley, W Gray and CW Craig - he explained that a cheese factory would help "relieve the butter market, and to some extent eliminate the glut which always occurred in summer, and in some degree improve the price".

Mr Harding said experience had shown that concentrated dairying paid the best, and where large quantities of milk were sufficiently manipulated in one establishment, the result was a great produce, a better quality and a considerable saving in wages than could possibly be obtained in private dairies.

He said that he was prepared to lay down the plant of an institution such as the cheese factory, provided farmers supplied him with a sufficient quantity of pure milk - not less

than 600 gallons daily.

"After a short address by Mr Harding on the necessity of washing cows' teats before milking to prevent tainting of either butter or cheese, the value of early and punctual milking, the careful supervision of milking yards and the injury often done to the cows, and always to the milk by driving them with dogs."

Kiama Independent
November 29, 1881

The *Kiama Independent* wholeheartedly supported Mr Harding's endeavours, suggesting that all dairies be built on the same principle as that built at Bodalla - with double timber walls filled with clay and sand to keep the temperature down inside the factory, and with large, adjustable windows and shutters for good ventilation.

The following month, Mr Harding further encouraged support of his venture with the demonstration of a Lawrence Refrigerator or milk cooler in full operation.

"...The exhibition took place in Mr Bullen's yard and we were pleased to see many dairymen present, the number being not less than 60 or 70. Water heated at 98 degrees, the temperature of milk taken from a cow, and the effect was to lower the temperature of the hot water to 70 degrees... In general terms we were prepared for a successful experiment, but we were not prepared for the almost instantaneous transition from heat to cold of the water operated on... The statement of Mr Harding that if the process were adopted at every dairy in the present

hot weather the milk would keep much longer without becoming thick, the cream would be much greater in quantity, and the butter of much better quality, seemed to be fully realised."

Kiama Independent
January 13, 1882

In February, 1882 - just three months after his council address, Mr Harding announced that the Jerrara Cheese Factory was open for operations and that the first supply of milk would be called for "this evening" (February 17).

"The factory operated along similar lines to the condensed milk factory, the farmers withholding milk and making butter when prices were good. When milk supplies were plentiful, the factory made 500lb of cheese daily."

Blue Haven
by William Bayley

Within 11 months Mr Harding's efforts had won acclaim with the announcement that a sample of Jerrara factory cheese had won a bronze medal at the prestigious Amsterdam Exhibition. The news was telegraphed by David Lindsay Dymock, who had been appointed by the Government as NSW Commissioner to the exhibition.

**Kiama farmers lead the way!
Pioneer Butter
Factory - Page 16**

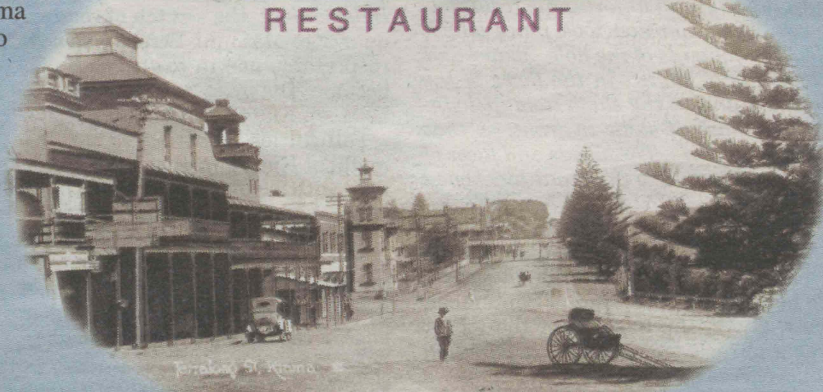
Through the Years...

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



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The extremely popular Early Bird special is here for the winter. Order between 5pm and 7pm to enjoy a two-course dinner for only \$16.50*

Quarrying's overnight success

FROM quiet beginnings, the blue metal quarrying industry in Kiama grew to immense proportions - much to the surprise, it appears, of the community.

"The rough rugged rocks which had so long been looked upon as a bug-bear have turned out a 'corner stone' and bid fair to become the source of a more permanent and lucrative trade than ever." (*Kiama Independent*, June 1880).

In February, 1880, it was reported that "another" quarrying company had been formed and that Kiama would receive the benefit of having the heavy work of the roads cut out and cleared, together with the monetary advantage of gaining three pence per ton on all that is taken away.

Also reported is that a 'Mr Major' had taken up a large contract after his application to council for stone was accepted.

The industry grew steadily until March, 1880, when the government called tenders for a lucrative blue metal contract - a massive 10,000 tons to be mined annually, for a period of one to two years. The metal was required to be "of the very best quality, blue in colour and dense in texture, free from honeycomb and broken without the use of fire". The tender was won by Messrs Leggatt and Hadkins and meant that, from the contract, almost £45,000 pounds would be spent in the district.

"The energy and enterprise of Messrs Leggatt and Hadkins in the business is a matter for general congratulation, and everyone will wish them success. We might mention in conclusion that nearly 1000 tons of broken stone was shipped away in two days."

Kiama Independent
June 18, 1880

With the metal industry surging ahead, calls were made for the laying of a tramway from "the works" (at the site of today's Quarry Leisure Centre) to Kiama Harbour to relieve Terralong Street of "the continual wear and tear of the heavy carts".

On July 23, 1880, the *Kiama Independent* reported that Messrs Leggatt and Hadkins had advertised for another 100 men to join its operations and quarrymen's cottages sprung up throughout the town in an effort to keep up with the overnight influx.

In October, a 55-ton schooner, the 'Lady of the Lorn', was added to the fleet already engaged in transporting the blue metal, making for some spectacular sights at Kiama Harbour at the height of the shipping season.

"At daylight the whole face of the wharf was found to be lined with steam and sailing vessels... The ISN Co's Illawarra arrived soon after nine o'clock. From the Illawarra's berth the line was continued by the Emily ketch, from Wollongong with coal, Prima Donna schooner; Havilah steamer; Lady of the Lorn ketch and on the other side of the ship the Industry and Mary Peveley schooners."

Kiama Independent
December 1880

While the industry heralded the arrival of a commercial boom time for Kiama, there was no overlooking the highly dangerous nature of the business, its early days being marked by serious accidents and other associated

calamities. One of Kiama's first quarry operators, Mr John Carson, saw his fair share of drama.

"ACCIDENT - A remarkable and unfortunate accident occurred on Monday last whereby Mr John Carson lost one of his most valuable horses. The animal, which appears to have been a rather restive one, was engaged in carting stone for Messrs Leggatt and Hadkins. Just before tilting a load on to the wharf, the horse suddenly started to back and before anyone could stop it, the cart, which was heavily loaded with stone, was backed over the edge of the wharf, dragging the mare after it. It sank almost immediately. We hear that Mr Carson had several times refused £25 for the animal, he considering it worth £30. The horse and cart were dragged up about two hours afterwards."

Kiama Independent
April 9, 1880

"NARROW ESCAPE - On Monday last, as Mr John Carson, of this town, was passing along the top edge of a blue metal quarry recently opened on his own property, he placed his foot on a stone, and first fearing its solidity, he tried it with a portion of his weight, then deciding it was safe, placed his whole weight upon it, when unfortunately it gave way, precipitating Mr Carson down the jagged rocks to the bottom of the quarry, a distance of some eighteen or twenty feet. It is providential that the effects of so ugly a fall, which might easily have been fatal, are slight."

Kiama Independent
April 23, 1880

"ACCIDENT - A lamentable accident occurred on Saturday last at the quarry which the contractors for road material are working at the spot known as Chapman's Point. A man named Henry Williams was working on the natural surface above the escarpment forming the quarry and was endeavouring to prize out a stone with a pick, when it unexpectedly yielded and Williams, who was standing close to the edge of the escarpment, lost his balance and fell over. The depth to the level below was about 25 feet, but near the middle of the perpendicular face was a projection with which his head unfortunately came in contact. The consequence was that the flesh and skin were stripped from a great part of the forehead and the nose, in a manner, split, though the eyes escaped serious injury."

Kiama Independent
November 30, 1880

"UNFORTUNATE BLAST - A mishap of a kind that had not been previously exemplified at the Kiama quarries, took place at Mr Carson's works in Hothersall-street. A blast in which the fuse had been lighted before breakfast had failed to explode and, in the belief that it had become extinct, two men named O'Shea and McAnene set to work to drill out the tamping when an unfortunate result followed... an explosion took place which blew the contents of the hole - water and fragments of stone - in the faces of the two men and at the same time dislodging the mass of stone in front, so that they fell with it... The hands and faces of both men were scorched and blackened by the explosion."

Kiama Independent
November 4, 1881

Kiama's first quarry-related death, we believe, was recorded in September, 1881. Given the hazards of the job, it was a miracle that such a tragedy had not occurred sooner.

"SERIOUS ACCIDENT - On Tuesday last, we are sorry to record, Mr Andrew Phillips met with much misfortune from the effects of which his recovery is understood to be very doubtful. He was engaged at the quarry at Chapman's Point, where it is intended to resume the process of stone-getting; and in consequence of his footing giving



Old Kiama - Bombo Quarry with large work force.

way under him while near the edge of the escarpment, he fell nearly the full height of forty feet... the patient lies at present in a various precarious condition."

And, in the follow-up edition:

"Death of Mr A Phillips - We are sorry to learn that Mr Andrew Phillips... died from the effects of that accident on Sunday evening last, shortly before sunset. The deceased was 39 years of age and was unmarried."

In December, 1880, the quarrying of cubes at Kiama's quarries was suspended on account of there being an over-supply of blue metal sitting on the wharves in Sydney. The material has apparently built up while waiting for adjustments on those Sydney streets which were due to be trammed. The cessation of work saw an exodus of hundreds of workmen who returned to their family homes for the Christmas period.

While the quarrying industry resulted in great economic and physical gains for the Kiama community, it also brought associated headaches. The constant parade of carts transporting blue metal down Terralong Street to the harbour led to problems of dust, noise and transport conflict. This was compounded in the winter of 1881 when inclement weather saw the major thoroughfare reduced to slush. Making matters worse, piles of blue metal - left on the northern side of Terralong Street for the purpose of spreading and stabilising the thoroughfare - had been left unattended for more than a fortnight "while the road grows worse by the day". The *Kiama Independent* commented that the road was "scandalously out of repair" and called for immediate government action.

In November, a new quarry was opened in "Mr GK Waldron's paddock" in Barney Street by Messrs Connell and Heslop of Sydney. The contract led to a deal being struck with the council that the company upgrade the road along which the stone would be carted. This was done and, according to the *Kiama Independent*, the stretch of roadway from the quarry to Manning Street was now "the most respectable one in town", so much so that it became "the most acceptable means of traffic between Kiama and the Longbrush".

Difficulties experienced in loading blue metal at Kiama Harbour were set to be alleviated with a call for tenders in the *Government Gazette* for the construction of 'staihs' for the shipment of blue metal. Calls for measures to end the prevalence of quarry carts and horses falling into the harbour were met with the construction of timber kerbing around the edge of the basin in March, 1883.

At Bombo in May, 1882, quarrying activities were "recommenced" with the construction of a timber jetty (at the 'Boneyard'). Doubts were expressed by "experienced persons", however, as to whether a timber jetty could withstand rough weather in that location and the *Independent* added its concern about "the stability and value of the labour-saving appliances or its chances of success".

Delays must have been experienced because, twelve months later, the

Independent reported that the once quiet locality was again poised to be rocked by the resumption of quarrying activities. The report also showed that, until the arrival of quarrying, Bombo was little more than a recreation area.

"BOMBO - This place, now the favourite resort of Sunday afternoon excursionists, is beginning to assume a very business-like aspect. The jetty is all but finished, a large horizontal steam engine and four crushing machines are in position and ready for work; a line of tram has been laid all along the jetty up to the quarry, thus offering every possible facility for the shipment of metal. According to appearance, the verdant beauty of the fields and slopes of Bombo promises soon to be again covered with dust, and its quiet caverns and shady nooks to again ring with the sound of the hammer and explosions of dynamite."

Kiama Independent
April 20, 1883

In November, 1883, the *Independent* reversed its judgement of the quarry, saying that "a vast improvement had taken place" since its last report. During an inspection of a quarry opened by George Hill Esq, of Sydney, the business was found to be thriving. Six crushers, driven by a 25-horse power horizontal engine, were in operation while the jetty was functioning well.

"THE STONE TRADE ... The hoppers, with floors so flat that shovelling out of them was almost as labourious as from a level floor, have been discarded and the metal from the crushers, which accumulates from the departure of one steamer to the arrival of another, is stored on wagons holding thirty hundred weight each, which are filled from the crusher shoots and then run onto the jetty... 138 men are employed, the wages pay sheet being about £600 fortnightly and the output of broken metal is from fourteen to fifteen hundred tons weekly. There is no less than 40 tents on the point in which the men sleep and Messrs Wood & Son have erected a boarding house, 80ft x 26ft, at a convenient spot, where the men are well fed at 16s (\$1.60) a week."

Cremation

"CREMATION - Milan is 'going ahead' with the practice substitution of cremation for burial, which is so eagerly demanded by some, so bitterly rejected by others, but... which must necessarily increase with the progressive increase in the number of the earth's inhabitants. In the fair city where the rulers of Italy and Germany have just been exchanging compliments and probably pledges, a pavilion for the cremation of bodies has just been built in the great cemetery of the town; and is to be inaugurated by the reduction to ashes of the mortal remains of the Chevalier Albert Treller - one of the leading advocates of the innovation."

Herald's 'Paris Letter', March 1876

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.

Sheep, coal & rail

Sheep

Kiama was never renowned as a sheep district, the *Kiama Independent* saying in January, 1880, that a 'rambling disposition in the sheep' had hindered local success on a major scale. Attacks on sheep by trespassing dogs was also a problem. But some success was witnessed.

This included the case of Mr H Fredericks, of Jamberoo, whose "reputation for skill and judgement in the rearing of dairy cattle has long been established".

Mr Fredericks had bought some sheep - of the South Down breed - three years prior and had built his herd up to 20 ewes which had proved highly profitable.

"...The animals have thriven finely on the grass of the district; and our friend, besides securing a plentiful supply of mutton - sometimes almost too fat for use for his own table, has been in a condition to supply the article to the butchers of the town and district. The 20 ewes above mentioned produced no less than 40 lambs."

Coal

As we are already aware, the excavation of coal in the Kiama Municipal area never really got off the ground but, at the start of 1880, hopes were still high that the area would make as much a name for itself in this line as Bulli was attracting in the north of the region.

In April, 1880, it was reported that 1946 acres of land in 13 blocks was taken up on Jamberoo Mountain for the purpose of mining coal.

A coal seam was opened in 1884 at the "east end of Jamberoo", largely under the direction of Dr Tarrant who was noted as being "intimately connected" with the venture. In August, 1884, two gentlemen, Messrs Bent and Langdon, arrived from Melbourne to inspect the mine and, after a trial, were "well pleased with the quality of the coal". It was hoped that the "projected company would soon be floated".

Miscellaneous

1880 appeared to mark the start of a friendly 'cauliflower war' when local gardeners did their best each season to turn out the biggest cauliflower. The competition was encouraged by the *Kiama Independent* which believed that any effort to improve the quality of local produce was good news for the area.

"MONSTER CAULIFLOWERS - The practice of growing vegetables, even for family use, is confined, comparatively speaking, to very few throughout the district and the art of growing them to perfection is understood by still fewer. The possession of this art comprehends the suitable aspect and proper nourishment required by each kind of plant... We are led to make these remarks from having seen specimens of cauliflower grown by Mr John Cunningham, gardener of this town, which in point of colour, regular growth, size and weight, we never saw surpassed... When the extreme outer leaves had been off and the flowers prepared for the pot, they weighed from twelve to fifteen pounds and before trimming from 15 to 20 pounds."

Kiama Independent
August 13, 1880

When, in 1883, Mr Cunningham again made the news with a cauliflower that, when trimmed for the pot, weighed 18.5 pounds, residents believed it could not be surpassed. In August, 1884, however, local gardener Mr Trevethan rose to the challenge, growing a specimen which weighed in at 30 pounds (untrimmed). The cauliflower was exhibited on the verandah of "Mr Wood's store" for all to admire.

In April, 1883, Mr W Bailey of Gerringong was reported as having good success with a trial crop of corn, grown from seeds given to him by Mr Hope of that town. The *Independent*, in reminding readers that corn "in all probability" came next to rice as a food supply for the human race, "too much attention cannot well be given to its cultivation".

Chinese market gardens were a familiar feature of country towns back in the 1800s and early 1900s, the community gaining a large quantity of their vegetables from these gardeners. In Kiama alone, two prominent gardens operated - one in Shoalhaven Street and another at Riversdale, near Spring Creek.

Despite the appearance of friendly relations, the fact is that a degree of bigotry was



A horse and cart negotiates the "Gerringong Road" - today's south Kiama bends.

expressed towards the Chinese and this was prevalent on a national scale.

An article in the *Kiama Independent* reported that although the Chinese gardeners supplied the bulk of vegetables, they were being spurned by many Europeans out of a "strong and invincible prejudice". It was hoped that an "Intercolonial Conference", to be held at Melbourne for the purpose of considering "The Chinese Question", would go some distance toward mending relations.

Kiama Agricultural & Horticultural Show

Since its resurgence in 1867, the success of the Kiama Agricultural & Horticultural Show grew to the point when, in February 1880, calls were made to have show days declared a public holiday.

The *Kiama Independent*, in support of the movement, said that, like Christmas, the Show only came around once a year and warranted such significant focus.

The town's three major banks concurred, announcing their intention to close at midday on both days of the Show while local storekeepers were expected to follow suit. An 'especial plea' was also made to local teachers to have the 'holiday' extended to children of the Public Schools.

"...Such exhibitions are chiefly interested in connection with the amount of instruction which they yield, and who we ask are more entitled to such instruction than the young? The objects exhibited on Wednesday and Thursday will make more impression on their young minds than a month's poring over a work which carries no interest beyond the rod."

Illawarra Railway

Mounting evidence was gathered for the extension of the railway line from Sydney to the Illawarra but, unfortunately, pleas to the Government's decision-makers continued to go unmet. An article in the *Kiama Independent* on April 6, 1880, vented frustration at the once publicly lauded shipping system whose reliance on favourable weather often rendered it unreliable.

The most recent Kiama Show, it was said, was a case in example, the weather interfering with the run of the steamers and causing disappointment and inconvenience. The unavailability of a steamer at the last minute also caused a group of artillerymen to hitch a ride on a coal collier in their effort to attend an encampment. The "rough and tumble" nature of the steamer, it not being fitted out as a passenger vessel, made for an uncomfortable journey.

In all, the shipping system was now being portrayed as unreliable, an inconvenience to its passengers and financial liability for business owners. Such a turnaround from its earlier glory days.

In November 5, 1880, a deputation comprising 60 persons, including "a number of prominent residents of this district, several members of both Legislative Chambers and the mayors of three or four municipalities" was received by the Minister for Works. The *Kiama Independent* reported that the interview provided "as much satisfaction as could possibly be looked for from a formal proceeding of this kind".

In September, 1882, an advance was made with the call for tenders on the first section of the Illawarra Railway, starting at 'Macdonaltown' (one mile 50 chains from Sydney) and extending 23 miles 23 chains towards Coal Cliff. The contracted time for completion was September 30, 1884.

Kiama residents are well familiar with the location of Kiama Railway Station in Railway Parade, but imagine the town dynamics if the station were to be located at its originally intended site - on the site of Kiama Fair Shopping Centre!

In response to a requisition signed by 12 residents, a meeting was held at the Kiama Council Chamber in June, 1884, to consider the best site for a railway station. Mr MN Hindmarsh recommended that "In the opinion of this meeting, the Crown Land known as the water reserve, Terralong-street, is the most suitable place for the Kiama railway station on account of its accessibility to the bulk of the population, in both the town and the country immediately adjacent". The site was also attractive because it contained little private property and so would be less costly to occupy. The recommendation was unanimously supported.

Mr HF Noble then recommended that more than one half the area of Section Sixteen of the town of Kiama (in which the water reserve was situated) be resumed for station purposes. Both outcomes were then forwarded to the Minister for Works.

In tracing the history of the Illawarra Railway, it is with some disbelief that we discovered the original route of the line, from Macquarie River (Albion Park) to Kiama, was to follow the same route as the North Kiama Bypass - complete with deviation through Terragong Swamp.

In a classic case of history repeating itself, the community launched its objection to the route, specifically the crossing of Terralong Swamp, "which would require a bridge three-quarters of a mile long". Much to their dissatisfaction, the community wasXX told by

the Government that the objections could not be entertained as the route had already been decided.

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Law & Order

THE early 1880s were characterised by a crackdown on cruelty to animals, several cases being heard by the Kiama Court in the first six months of the year. In reading the cases of abuse which largely involved animals being forced to work while injured or poorly nourished, one can determine that the well-being of animals was not highly regarded by all colonials.

Meantime, the usual cases of drunkenness and other associated offences continued to take up a good deal of the court's time. In May, 1880, a local man named William Jones came before the court to face three charges - drunk and disorderly, furious riding and breaking in a young horse in Terralong Street. The first two crimes were commonplace for the times while the third was reportedly on the increase.

The case unfolded like a courtroom drama with four local witnesses, including Kiama Mayor John Black, testifying to the man's drunkenness.

Kiama Police Sergeant Healy said he saw the defendant "very drunk in Manning-street; he was incapable of driving his horses; he was thrown out of his buggy; and he was conveyed home in McGlinchey's van; he asked Mr McGlinchey to take him home as he was so helplessly drunk".

For the first two offences the defendant was fined 20s or 48 hours in Kiama lock-up. On the third

charge, however, Jones brought in a witness who swore that the horse was "quiet" and had previously been broken in. The charge was dismissed due to lack of evidence.

As previously mentioned, Kiama appears to have escaped the scourge of bushranging - until June, 1880, when the community became rocked by a hold-up on the Eureka estate (Gainsborough).

"**STICKING-UP** - A remarkable case of this kind has happened in this usually quiet neighbourhood. At 4 o'clock on Saturday morning last, Mr W Plumridge, residing on the Eureka estate, reported to Sergeant Healy that he had been stuck-up by two armed men who rifled his pockets of what little they contained and otherwise ill-treated him. From the description of the men, given by his informant, Sergeant Healy had a suspicion of their identity, having hunted them out of town the previous evening... Yesterday a warrant was issued for the arrest of both men, Longbotton and Fitzgerald, and just as we were going to press, we hear they are in custody."

Kiama Independent
June 15, 1880

As already stated, it was not uncommon for animals to be abused by their owners. In May, 1881, the Kiama community was shocked by the case of an orphaned child who was treated no less differently.

"**POLICE COURT** - A lamentable instance of what may happen to those unlucky 'state children' who, through death or default of their parents are thrown upon the case of the government, and by it assigned to such persons as profess to want their services and be willing to take care of them... On Saturday morning a girl named Maria Davidson, who had been obtained from the Orphan Asylum nearly three years ago by John Stapleton of Jamberoo, and is now 15 years old, found her way to Kiama to claim the protection of the police. She complained that she had been grossly ill-treated by Mr Stapleton and his wife... She was presented to the Police Magistrate by Sergeant Healy and her person bore ample signs of the injuries mentioned... There is no doubt that the child's appearance will be much less shocking than it was on Saturday, when a person having a lively sense of smell could hardly approach her, such was the effluvia from her sores and the rags with which she was partially covered."

Kiama Independent
May 21, 1881

At a follow-up sitting, which attracted "an unusually large number of spectators", the court was told:

"On the evening above named she was occupied in the kitchen of defendant's house. Defendant came into the room and asked her in a violent tone why she had made a fire like that, alluding to the fire on the hearth, and why the hell she had not taken the meat out of the pot. She said she had not had the time as Mrs Stapleton had called her away for another purpose... He then seized her by the hair and shoved her into the hearth fire... There was not a very strong fire burning at this time; but there was a kettle of boiling water hanging on the crane just above. As defendant pushed her across the logs her shoulder struck the kettle and shifted its position, so that the water began to pour over her neck and shoulders. She cried out that she was scalded but he held her over the logs until she struggled out of his grasp and got away."

The court was also told that she was ordered back to work and little effort had made to soothe her scalds which had begun to blister. It was also told that she was repeatedly beat about the head and shoulders with a quince rod, and that she had been ordered to strip naked to her waist on two occasions for another whipping. Shortly after the scalding incident, she ran away, seeking refuge at Tate's Hotel before Mr W Vidler drove her to the police in his spring drover.

"...Dr Lacey stated that he had examined the plaintiff twice. The first time was on Saturday morning when, in consequence of the filthy

state in which she was, the process was hardly possible. Her hair was full of lice and her body covered with dirt from head to foot."

The Bench had no difficulty in determining that the case required the infliction of the maximum penalty, a fine of £10. The defendant was told that, had he been tried in a higher court, he might have attracted twice this fine or sentenced to two year's imprisonment.

In an editorial published on May 31, 1881, the *Kiama Independent* issued scathing comment on the system of orphans being sent into the community as 'apprentices', and called for government regulation of the process.

"...The case of orphans placed like Anna Maria Davidson is most deplorable; but the possibility of mending it depends upon other circumstances than the well-meant effort of a neighbour who may have been shocked at the cruelties exercised by the owners of a little slave assigned to them under the name of an apprentice - a title which has somewhat unhappily known for its connection with the institution of actual slavery... The Randwick is only in a modified sense an institution. If it were under the direct control of the Government... it is probably that the apprentices sent out from it would be in some way placed under the protection and supervision of the police."

The Temperance movement of the 1870s, the prevalence of alcohol abuse and the number of alcohol-related offences which took up so much time in the courts led to stronger liquor laws being enforced and, subsequently, a new focus for the 1880s. While the usual drunks were still making their appearances before the magistrate, so too were the local publicans - for a variety of offences. The following case - against George Tory - saw the publican put forward an interesting response to his own defence.

"**Kiama Police Court - Police v G Tory** - unlawful selling of liquor on a Sunday. Plea not guilty. James Smillie jr was sworn and stated that on Sunday, July 10, about 10pm, he went into defendant's licensed house, the Kiama Hotel, and was served with a drink at the bar; there were several other persons there, and one man commonly known as Dick the Dodger, was lying drunk on the floor. Edward McGlinchey went into the house with witness; witness himself only got lemonade and bitters and was served by Mrs Tory... Defendant stated that he was as much opposed as anybody in the trade or out of it could be to Sunday trading; and he would willingly pay £10 a year more in license fee if he could keep his house entirely closed on Sundays. As it was, it was scarcely possible to keep persons out and, being in, it was difficult to at all times refuse them drink... Sgt Healy testified that so far as Sunday trading was concerned, Mr Tory's house was the most satisfactorily kept establishment of its kind in town. The Bench, taking into consideration the extenuating circumstances, inflicted a minimum fine of 5s."

Kiama Independent
August 12, 1881

Twelve months later, a "painful" case of "youthful depravity" was heard by the Kiama Local Court after a 15-year-old boy named Henry Hammond was charged with being "drunk and incapable". The court heard that he and three older lads had attended Farragher's Hotel and called for rum. They were each served with a glass of rum before consuming four glasses of beer and then another rum each. Hammond was turned out of the hotel at 11pm and was found by the police, leaning against a fence in the rain. In view of his youth, the Magistrate, Mr Connell, admonished him before he was discharged. Mr Connell described the case as the worst which had ever come before him.

"The Act provides for the punishment of publicans serving boys apparently under the age of 16 years and it is probable some action will be taken in this matter."

Kiama Independent
June 6, 1882

In September, 1882, an increase in burglaries was reported - a fact attributed by the *Independent* to the increase in population of workers associated with the quarrying industry. The newspaper ventured further to say that this new population was not always of "that type from which we could expect an improvement in the moral tone of society".

The town's original problems with larrikinism were reportedly "fed and nourished" by these new arrivals to the point where the problem had reached "gigantic proportions" and "daring burglaries" became a new crime in Kiama.

"...The servant of Mrs Done, returning home from a party, went first into the room of a fellow servant for a match but said 'never mind, I will go to bed (in an adjoining room) in the dark'. The fellow servant advised her not to do that as she had heard noises she did not like. On this a light was procured and, going into her room, she observed the legs and feet of a man under her bed... they locked the door and remained there till daylight when, of course, the burglar had made his exit."

Kiama Independent
September 15, 1882

Gerringong & Jamberoo Police Stations

The battle for a police station at Gerringong continued into the 1880s, a great number of complaints being generated about the inconvenience of not having a lock-up. In June, 1880, the *Kiama Independent* said that several cases had been reported whereby the constable at Gerringong had been forced to "tramp in to Kiama late at night with his prisoner" and that, while the "arm of the law" was away, the remaining inhabitants of the town were left unprotected.

Victory finally came with the construction of a police lock-up and residence - complete with cells and 'exercise yard' - in Fern Street 1882. The building exists to this day as a private residence.

The Jamberoo community's continued fight for decent police facilities was rewarded with the construction of a police station and lock-up in 1883.

Kiama Lock-up

Kiama, meantime, had its own grievances. In September, 1881, the *Independent* turned its attention to what it regarded as a serious imposition on the Kiama police lock-up keeper and his family.

"**THE LOCK-UP** - It is in our opinion high time that the attention of those who can remedy the evil, were directed to the want of a sufficient place of confinement for the reception of those whom the magistrates are now pretty frequently compelled to provide with short periods of board and lodging... It is perfectly scandalous that any decent family should be required to live - as is the case with Constable Spencer's family at present - in a building where the cells so apt to be peopled with the drunken and disorderly are only separated from the domestic apartments by a slab partition which, so far as sound is concerned, is no partition at all... Really it is a wonder that the larrikins of the town do not on proper occasions assemble to listen to the comic songs and discourses which the incarcerated martyrs of disorder sometimes deliver, and which may be heard at a considerable distance."

Kiama Independent
September 23, 1881

Following this report, moves were set in motion for the construction of a new police station and lock-up keeper's residence.

The End of the World!

DOOMSDAY theorists have been around since the dawn of time, the human race long holding a preoccupation with their own mortality. The following scientist bases his predictions on the forces of nature - a chief argument being that the earth will end as a result of global 'cooling'.

"**THE END OF THE WORLD** - The following gloomy picture is drawn by a French scientist: The earth was born; she will die. She will die either of old age when her vital elements shall have been used up, or the extinction of the sun, on whose rays her life is suspended. She might also die by accident through some collision with some celestial body meeting her en route; but this end of the world is the most improbable of all... In fact, it is probable that the air and water are diminishing. The ocean, like the atmosphere, appears to have been formerly much more considerable than it is in our day... It is almost certain that the temperature of the interior of the globe reaches that of boiling point at a

depth of about six miles and prevents the water from descending any lower; but the absorption will continue with the cooling of the globe... The thinker may foresee through the roist of ages to come the epoch yet afar off in which the earth, deprived of the atmospheric aqueous vapour which protects her from the glacial cold of space by preserving the solar rays around her, will become chilled in the sleep of death... During very many ages, equatorial humanity will undertake arctic expeditions to find again under the ice the place of Paris, Lyons, Bordeaux and Marseilles... No-one will live and breath any more except in the equatorial zone up to the day when the last family, nearly dead with cold and hunger, will sit on the shores of the last sea in the rays of the sun which will thereafter shine here below on the ambulant tomb revolving aimlessly around a useless light and a barren heat."

Kiama Independent
May 14, 1880



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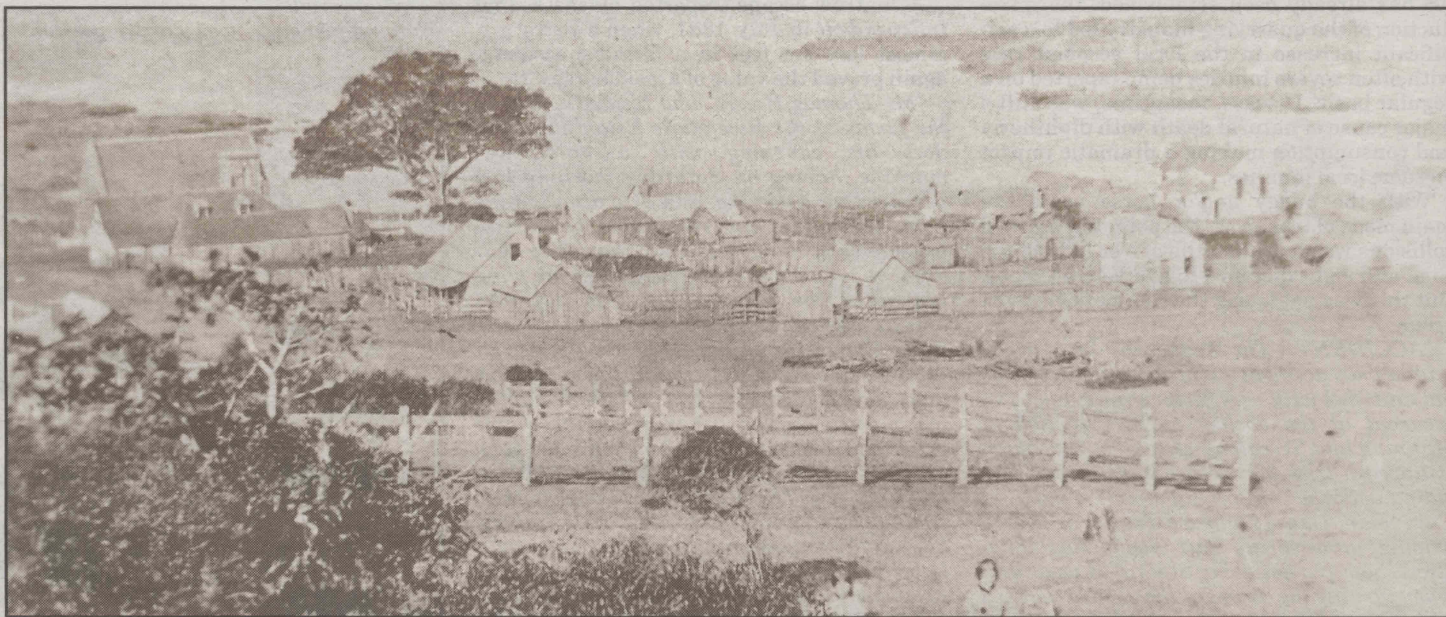
INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Larrikinism & the whip

A view of Black Beach - 1874

The view of Kiama's central business district - from behind. This photograph was taken in 1874 from the top of Bong Bong Street. It overlooks Black Beach and Kiama Harbour and the Kiama Post Office is yet to be built. Note the historic fig tree at centre, and the Kiama Presbyterian Church.

Photo: Brian Holmes Collection.



LARRIKINS were as much a part of the Australian culture as beer and bushrangers. In 1880, however, the practical jokes and pranks deteriorated into outright vandalism and the colony faced a new problem. A new "larrikin class" had reportedly gained "defiant" prominence and an entire section of the community - from political leaders to local newspapers - began calling for action; namely punishment by flogging.

And the mood in Kiama, once again, was no different. Many acts of vandalism and destruction were recorded - a bridge in Manning Street had its coping stones pushed into the river; the town pump was all but destroyed on two occasions; horses were deliberately sent into dangerous frenzies; and the tools of workmen employed on the roads were tampered with.

A police crackdown resulted and many offenders were brought before the courts, including the following who were arrested when their New Year's Eve celebrations got out of hand.

"RIOTOUS CONDUCT" - John Williams, John Davis, John Ferguson, Terrance O'Brien, Jonah Price, Richard Fadden, James Hand, Mitchell McKenna, George Stokes and Thomas Cusack were charged by the police with riotous and disorderly conduct during the night between December 31st, 1880, and January 1, 1881... The remainder having heard the charge read, pleaded guilty to 'being on the

Tinned food danger

In August, 1884, we learned that while tinned food was in use, it was not always as safe, health-wise, as it is today.

"...A tin of sardines was placed on the table, but as Mr and Mrs Napier both observed something peculiar in the taste of the fish, they only ate a small portion of it. A cabman in their employ did not, however, object to it, and made a good meal... Shortly afterwards, all who had eaten the sardines were attacked by severe pains and violent retching and Dr Clarke was called in. The cabman, who had gone out directly after tea, was brought home seriously ill, and not being able to vomit, the stomach pump was brought into requisition... Dr Clarke is of the opinion that some of the spirits of salt, or other chemicals used in soldering, must have been allowed to enter the tin and render the contents unfit for food. It is said that the fish had been exposed in a shop window, and it would be well for grocers and others to remember that tinned food of any kind should not be subjected to the heat of the sun."

Kiama Indep, August 26, 1884

streets' at the times specified. Snr Sergeant Healy deposed that during the night in question, a mob of 40 or 50 men and boys were patrolling the streets of Kiama for several hours, commencing about 10 o'clock. For some time, though they were noisy, singing and so forth, they did nothing which in his opinion rendered it necessary for the police to interfere. But, gradually, and under the influence of drink, they grew disorderly; commenced hooting, shouting, using obscene language and pelting various public and private buildings along the streets. A piece of road metal had been thrown through one of the windows of the Wesleyan Church, smashing it... The (offenders) were sentenced to pay the maximum fine of 40s."

Kiama Independent
January 7, 1881

In the following edition, the *Independent's* editor gave the following social commentary before suggesting that magistrates be given additional power to suppress the most recent brand of larrikinism - including the option of sentencing criminals to a whipping.

"LARRIKINISM" - The prominence of the term larrikin in the daily records of our time, and the corresponding prominence of the acts, sometimes merely impish, sometimes absolutely atrocious, which are associated with that term make up a phenomenon in colonial life which requires the most serious attention... In the town language - slang it may be - of the old country, the larrikin is understood to be rather a small boy who indulges in tricks not always entirely unobjectionable, but never rising to that dignity and height of lawlessness which constitutes the character of the species on this side of the world... so the boy of eight years, with his slightly mischievous tricks, develops into the quasi man of eighteen (or considerably more) clothed in a suit of villainy to match - the mere monkey tricks of the earlier type giving way to the full-blown criminality of the latter... the perpetrators of this sort of thing (should) be made liable not merely to imprisonment without the alternative of a fine, but likewise to the old-fashioned discipline of the 'cat'."

In June, 1882, the problem was still rife and the *Independent* again called for the reintroduction of whipping at the magistrate's discretion. The call was not supported by everyone, especially those who had a "strong hatred to anything like flogging because of the cruelties which were connected with it in our early colonial history", but the newspaper remained firm.

"...it is a punishment that our larrikins dread, and which some of them richly deserve; we believe that public whipping would be a deterrent to would-be larrikins."

This opinion was reaffirmed 12

months later during the Government's discussion of the proposed Criminal Law Consolidation Bill when a "Whipping Clause" was introduced which gave two or magistrates, one of whom must be a stipendiary, the power to order a whipping of so many strokes to boys and youths convicted of certain offences.

"...(Larrikinism) is a social and moral infection which should be stamped out like small-pox. Its rapid growth and its ever new and varied developments, often in unlooked for places, demand the most rigorous measures in order to cure the distempered and to prevent the spread of the infection... The treatment which larrikins have received in the past has been too mild, hence the continued advance of the social plague. The bad boy of the school or workshop has been defended by his parents or master when the school teacher or some other body corrected him or complained of his misconduct... The 'bad boys' have become worse youths and still worse young men who are doing their utmost to destroy the peace of respectable people and to interfere with the arrangements of well-behaved communities."

Kiama Independent
April 17, 1883

Evidence of the community's continued decline - and further weight for the wisdom of the Whipping Clause - came just three days later when two foul-mouthed rowdies disrupted a divine service being held in the Scots Kirk. The two men "advanced to a few rows of seats of the extreme front, in doing so making all possible noises, spitting on the floor, and otherwise conducting themselves as if they were more familiar with the atmosphere of the tap-room than the surroundings of the sanctuary". During the service they also "made use of the most blasphemous expressions" which were plainly audible to those sitting nearby who were "as much annoyed by the liquor-tainted breath of these sacrilegious caltiffs; so much so that several ladies of the congregation had to leave their seats".

Ultimately, the culprits left the church following a threat by the sexton to call for the police.

This disturbance was followed one week later by damage done to the Porter's Garden Cemetery when the fence was partially destroyed and the posts and rails were piled in a heap at the centre of the adjoining roadway. The perpetrators then headed north, pulling down fences belonging to Mr Cameron of Middle Creek, Mr Harper at Eureka and Mr Carberry near the Minnamurra River.

Despite the campaign and the many crimes, it was never quite believed that whipping would actually be introduced as a form of punishment at a municipal level, but introduced it was. On November 20, 1883, the *Kiama Independent* made the following chilling announcement and a new corner was turned in local law enforcement.

"LARRIKINS BEWARE!" The 'Cat' has arrived. Triangles, cat-o'-nine-tails, two taws and other appliances necessary for inflicting the punishment of flogging, provided for in the new criminal law, arrived in Kiama by Saturday's steamer.

The taws are made of strips of leather and intended for the punishment of juvenile offenders. At present it is not known into whose hands the administration of this punishment will fall, but probably when the new gaol is completed the duty will fall the warden, whoever he will be. Mr Connell informs us that he will be happy to show the appliance to anyone desirous of seeing them at the court-house."

The first sitting at Kiama Police Court, following the arrival of the whips, must have been a nerve-racking affair for those who faced the magistrate.

The two cases - one of a person being drunk and disorderly and the other of assault - between two women - escaped the whipping sentence.

By the close of 1885, we still found no evidence of the "cat" being used, although it was displayed before three "youthful offenders" at a court sitting in March, 1884, in an effort to rattle them.

"...The delinquents smiled but the Bench assured them that they would not smile if they got a taste of the 'cat' and promised to give them one the next time they appeared before the court."

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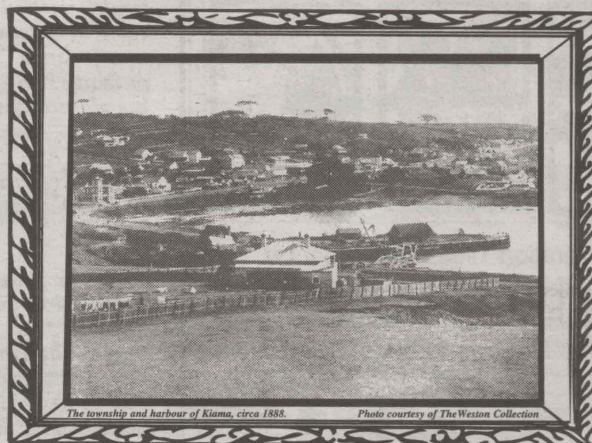
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Births, deaths & accidents

AS has already been established, the introduction of the quarrying industry led to a significant increase in the local accident rate with often severe injuries being reported on a regular basis. Disease, meantime, was still a major cause of natural death with diphtheria and consumption making a dramatic impact on some local families.

With the buggy and/or horse being the main mode of transport, the potential for road collisions was minimal, the driver having the time and sight distance to avert an accident. But this was not to say that accidents did not occur.

"ACCIDENT - On Wednesday last, about midday, an accident - which fortunately was not attended with very serious consequences - occurred at the obelisk at the junction of Manning and Terralong-streets, in this town. It appears that Mr Robert McGlinchey was riding down Manning-street, and a Chinaman, whose name we did not hear, was driving in a spring cart down Terralong-street, both parties going at a rapid pace, and when turning the corner at the obelisk they - in endeavouring to get out of each other's way - pulled to the side of the road next to the bay and collided, the point of the shaft of the Chinaman's cart entering Mr McGlinchey's horse's shoulder at the breast and coming out at the blade bone about 18 inches from where it entered. Both horses were thrown to the ground and though the Chinaman remained unhurt in the cart, Mr McGlinchey and the horse parted company, the former though falling heavily, was fortunately not much the worse... We will not express an opinion as to who is most to blame...but certainly blame attaches to both parties as they should have pulled up, and turned the corner at a much slower pace than they did."

Kiama Independent
January 6, 1880

By mid-1880, an epidemic of diphtheria swept the colony with deaths being reported at Robertson, and 16 fatalities at Rylstone, Sydney. "... the state of affairs there is something frightful, nearly every family has lost some of its members. The whole place is in a state of mourning; deaths are of frequent occurrence and it is feared that the worst has not yet been passed." (Taken from the *Western Independent*)

Through the *Kiama Independent* we learn that the situation is not as dire as it is in Russia where, during the past half century, the disease had made such a 'fearful ravage' that a special medical commission had been appointed to combat 'its evil effects'.

Ownership of a good horse was essential to daily living - both for business and pleasure - especially in a neighbourhood where the terrain made travel by foot an uphill battle. This might explain the newsworthiness of the following passage.

"DEATH OF A HORSE - We are sorry to have to mention that on Friday last a useful horse, the property of Mr A Yates and which he had been for a considerable time in the habit of driving in his cart fell dead suddenly in Terralong-street near the mill."

Kiama Independent
November 16, 1880

A "narrow escape" reported by the *Kiama Independent* in July, 1881, when a young girl almost lost her feet in a farming accident, again proved the value of a good horse.

"Mr Thomas Honey, who resides on one of the farms at the Riversdale Estate and who does his churning with a horsepower machine, having on Saturday morning last prepared for churning, and also attached the horse and started him, repaired to the dairy in pursuance of his usual occupation. The children, as is customary on fine days, were playing about the premises; and as it would appear, one little boy was chasing his sister when she, in the eagerness of her flight, ran into the machine. Of course there was an instantaneous scream and Mr Honey, quite instinctively, called out Wh-o to the horse which stopped without taking another step. Mr Honey went out to find the boots of the little girl torn off her feet, and some heel slightly bruised, but in such a position that had the horse moved another step, both her feet would have been torn off. We regard this as a Providential escape, and a proof of the value of a docile, reliable horse."

Kiama Independent
July 19, 1881

Consumption hit the Reid family of Kiama with great severity in the new year of 1882, again providing an indication of the suffering regularly experienced in colonial times when disease was rife.

"FUNERAL. A goodly number of friends whose sympathy with the bereaved parents was unmistakable, followed the earthly remains of the late Matilda Reid, third daughter of Mr and Mrs S Reid, to their last resting place in the Public Cemetery, at Porter's Garden. The occasion was one of peculiar sadness and gloom, inasmuch as this was the fourth child between the ages of 15 and 20 of the same family that had, within a relatively short time, been carried away by consumption, and two others who died in infancy, making a total of six."

Kiama Independent
January 24, 1882

And then came this notice 14 months later: "OBITUARY - A large and sympathetic procession followed the remains of Elizabeth, fourth daughter of Mr Samuel Reid, of this town, to the public cemetery on Wednesday last. She died of consumption... this is the seventh death in the children of the family within 10 years... the majority, if not all, succumbing to the same complaint."

Kiama Independent
March 30, 1883

At Gerringong, a man was lucky to survive a fall of 30 feet as he attempted to sink a well for local farmer, Mr W Bailey. As we will see, the man was deemed to require further medical attention and was transported via steamer to Wollongong Hospital. One hopes a steamer was immediately available in the harbour.

"ACCIDENT - On Saturday last, about noon, a stranger James Taylor, engaged in sinking a well for Mr W Bailey, of Gerringong, met with an accident by which one of his legs was broken and it is almost miraculous that he was not instantly killed. It appears that at about 30 feet they met with rock in the well and blasted it. Some time after the explosion of the blast the unfortunate man essayed to descend the well as usual, but the moment the bucket left the stage he went down like a shot.... He was taken to Mr Bailey's house and tended with all care. Dr Lacey was also soon in attendance and set the fractured limb. He also advised the patient's removal to Wollongong, where his chance of recovery would be much greater... Accordingly, Mr Bailey brought him as carefully as possible to Kiama yesterday morning and he will be sent per steamer to Wollongong."

Kiama Independent
April 10, 1883

The bizarre circumstances of many deaths and accidents which occurred around the world were regularly republished in the *Kiama Independent* for the interest of readers. This included, in April 1883, the unfortunate death of a British housewife, Mrs Murphy, who was discovered dead on the floor of her London kitchen - with a saucepan on her head. A medical enquiry found that she had "pitched forward upon the floor", driving her head so securely into the saucepan that she was unable to extricate it and



A beautiful photograph which shows the style of ladies' clothing in the 1880s. These ladies are from a local family, although their identity is uncertain.
Photo: Geoff Honey Collection.

consequently suffocated. The *Independent's* sympathetic opening paragraph also makes for interesting reading.

"DEATH IN A SAUCEPAN - The saucepan is not considered a deadly weapon - except in the hands of an irate woman - yet this very ordinary kitchen utensil has been the means of removing a mere mortal."

Medical Wonders?

Throughout this special Millennium Supplement, we have been privvy to many "cures" and remedies for the maladies of the Victorian era and beyond. As history has proved, not all of these discoveries were ground-breaking marvels of medical science. In fact, many were just plain bizarre.

As the saying goes, the following shouldn't be attempted at home.

"CURE FOR DIPHTHERIA - In communication to the Chicago 'Medical Journal' Dr McGill described a method of treating diphtheria from which he has secured far better results than any other. He uses an ordinary hose, from two to five feet long, and about one inch in diameter. One end of this is placed over the spout of a common tea-kettle into which has been put half a gallon of water and half an ounce of carbonic acid; the kettle is then placed on the stove over a good fire, and when the water reaches boiling point the end of the hose is carried under a blanket thrown over the patient's head. The room must be closed. In a short time the patient will perspire freely. If persevered at short intervals, the breathing becomes softer and, presently, after a succession of quick, compulsive efforts, the patient throws off a coat or tube of false membrane. The acid vapour seems to prevent the reformation of exudation."

Kiama Independent, April 6, 1883

We know that many "chance" discoveries have led to medical breakthroughs, but we don't think the following was one of them. (We speculate that the patient may have become 'insensible' after being accidentally dropped on his head.)

"A FRENCH surgeon says that on chloroforming some mice and lifting them by their tails, they tried to bite, but on laying them again in a horizontal position, they resumed insensibility. Acting on this hint, when a patient showed signs of collapse under dose of chloroform, he dropped the patient's head over the bedside and raised the feet quite high. The patient at once became conscious; when laid on the bed he became insensible again... It is thought that by this treatment anaesthetics may be used with great safety."

Kiama Independent
June 13, 1884

Marriages

In its early days, the *Kiama Independent* was not in the habit of publishing wedding reports. Unions between prominent local families were sometimes noted, but were not given the same glowing treatment as might be dedicated to a school concert or a church bazaar. Perhaps Joseph Weston's own admission that "we are not good at describing dress and decorations on such occasions", was the reason, he being more at home with a good council debate.

Nevertheless, on July 8, 1884, a trend was begun with the nuptials of Edward A Bronsden, draughtsman of the Survey Office, Sydney, and Eleanor J Bullen, third daughter of Kiama businessman George Bullen, and wife Agnes, of Manning Street. The wedding was held at the bride's family home and performed by Wesleyan minister, the Rev WC Hughes, before a gathering of 50 relatives and friends. As the *Independent* noted in its report:-

"...the bride looked downright pretty with her bridal veil, orange wreath and bouquet and it struck us very forcibly that Mr Bronsden thought so too for he had the first kiss in a jiffy after the ceremony was over."

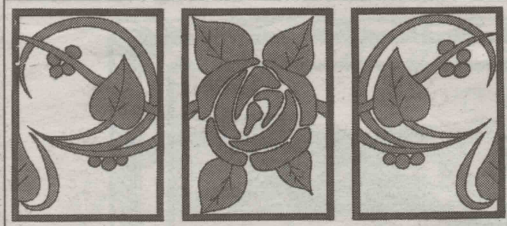
Seances in vogue

WHILE those of the Victorian era were largely God-fearing citizens, this did not stop the preoccupation of dabbling in the "mystical" side of life. Seances were not uncommon while reports of hauntings, ghosts and other supernatural occurrences were regularly published, including this item:-

"HERE is one of the latest spiritualistic stories from the 'Harbinger of light':- 'At a private circle in Queensland a short time since, a spirit giving the name of Lamont Young controlled the medium and stated that he and others had been lost in quicksand. Some of our readers may remember the mysterious disappearance of a surveyor of that name, and his party of five in NSW, not very long ago. As far as we are aware, no trace of the missing men has been discovered and, if this communication is correct, it would sufficiently account for this, as the quicksand would swallow all their paraphernalia. Previous to the name being given, the medium enacted the process of drowning and suffocation in a painfully realistic manner."

Kiama Independent
August 1884

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Obituaries

"MARY COLLEY - On Sunday last were committed to the earth in the public cemetery, Porter's Garden Beach, the beloved wife of Mr Hugh Colley, of Long Brush. The procession at the funeral was one of the largest we have seen in this district, there being about a score of vehicles, nearly a hundred on horseback, and a large number on foot. These represented all classes in the district, evidencing the very high esteem in which the deceased lady was held... The immediate cause of death was paralysis, which made its appearance some four or five months ago, attacking the hands first and gradually spreading over the system... Her maiden name was Makay, originally from Scotland and a member of an old standard family of Bodalla, in the Monaro district... A very general sympathy is felt for the bereaved husband, and the sight of three relatives at the grave, all widowers, viz Mr James Colley, Mr C Cameron and Mr Hugh Colley, was an affecting subject of remark."

Kiama Independent
May 18, 1880
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"JAMES EMERY - Another old resident has passed away and his genial presence will be missed both in town and in the family circle. We refer to the death of Mr James Emery which happened at his residence Nethervale, near Kiama, on Wednesday morning last... Mr Emery was 68 years of age and came out to the colony 40 years ago. He first settled in Shellharbour, but shortly afterwards removed to Kiama, and was the first to settle on Manning's grant where he first rented a farm then took a clearing lease on the same and subsequently purchased his splendid property. He leaves a widow and a large family, but the latter are all grown up and occupy good positions."

Kiama Independent
May 28, 1880
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DR WILLIAM TARRANT - In June, 1880, the Kiama community was shocked by a tragic accident which claimed the life of one of its most highly regarded citizens, Dr William Tarrant, and seriously injured Kiama Police Sergeant

Healy. The two men, in the company of Messrs JW May and Alfred Charles (son of Captain Samuel Charles), had set out for Wollongong District Court on the morning of June 24. On reaching the top of the Collins Street cutting, the two horses which drew their buggy - both having a reputation for spiritedness - tore down the hill before colliding with a fence and sending the occupants flying. "...Mr May was the first to recover, and upon asking whether the others were hurt, Sergeant Healy and Dr Tarrant both replied that they were. He then asked Dr Tarrant where he was hurt and the unfortunate gentleman answered, 'Oh my God, I can't tell, it's internally; let someone go for Caird (meaning Dr Caird). Sergeant Healy was then standing up but still partially stunned, his head bleeding profusely, while his words were incoherent. N Harper Esq, JP, who, with Master Henry Charles, had been riding a short distance behind, immediately rode back for Dr Caird who in a few minutes returned. He at once pronounced Dr Tarrant's death as inevitable and he died ten minutes afterwards... the body of Dr Tarrant was first taken to Avoca and afterwards brought into Kiama to his own house. Such are the particulars of an accident, the sad nature of which is impossible to describe. The youth, invariable courtesy, somewhat recent marriage, his leaving a scene of gaiety where he had shown to what an extent his genial influence could assist in the pleasure and amusement of others, have caused the sympathy in his death to be universal. To nearly everyone the circumstances will ever be remembered with pain, while sorrow for his wife and baby in their deep bereavement is deeply felt by all. His funeral will take place this day and will be attended by Masons, Alliance, Oddfellows and Sons of Temperance, in regalia, he having been the medical officer of these societies."

Kiama Independent
June 25, 1880

Dr Tarrant's funeral, held the following day, was one of the largest witnessed in Kiama, the procession of mourners stretching one quarter of a mile long. Besides those who joined the official procession, a large number of women and their children followed the casket, walking through the paddocks on either side of the road. More than 500 people were present at Porters Garden Cemetery as the funeral service was read by Rev J Done.

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"JAMES ARMSTRONG - On Saturday last were committed to the ground the remains of one whose life included not only the whole of the present century, but more than a quarter of the preceding one. We speak of Mr James Armstrong who died from the effects of natural decay, as may well be supposed, on the evening of Thursday the 19th instant, at his residence near Kiama. Mr Armstrong had reached the age of 107 years and was probably, by a good deal, the oldest man in the district... (for 32 years) he had lived on the property from which he was carried to his grave, and which had formed part of Sir William Manning's grant. The remains of the deceased were interred in Mr Kendall's private burial ground by the side of his first wife who was laid there some 18 years since. Mr Armstrong about 10 years ago married a second time, and a widow with one child survives him after having devoted every possible attention to his declining years."

Kiama Independent
August 24, 1880

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"ROBERT FULLER - Robert, second son of GL Fuller Esq, JP, who at the early age of 17, while spending a university holiday with his family, died after a few days illness, early on the morning of Friday last. The affliction of which

Kiama Independent
November 16, 1880

he died was... in the nature of rheumatic fever. It is hardly necessary to say

that this melancholy event has given rise to, throughout the town and vicinity, the strongest feelings of regret for a promising career so early terminated, and of sympathy with those upon who the bereavement falls."

Kiama Independent
September 21, 1880
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JOHN BLACK, ESQ - Kiama Municipality was again in shock following the passing of another distinguished community leader - the Mayor of Kiama, John Black. A Sunday school teacher with the Wesleyan Church, Mr Black suffered a fit of apoplexy during class and never regained consciousness. He was aged just 51. "A decease as startling, it may be said, as any death that ever occurred in Kiama, took place in the town on Monday morning... it may be said that there is not a person living in the Kiama district, or connect with it, who will be more missed than Mr Black for some time to come... Mr Black was, at the time of his death, Mayor of Kiama, an office to which he had been elected for many years in succession and generally without opposition. He had always taken a leading part in the politics of the district and in every movement for the social, intellectual and economical benefit of its inhabitants. He has held the Commission of the Peace for many years, and was one of the most active promoters of the volunteer movement in Kiama when, even eleven or twelve years ago, that movement became general throughout the colony... He was a native of County Fermanagh in the North of Ireland... He leaves a widow and three children. His remains will be interred this afternoon at the private cemetery on the Barroul estate, the property of his father-in-law, T Kendall Esq."

Kiama Independent
August 2, 1881

Following Mr Black's death, the community determined that fitting tribute should be made in the

gentleman's memory. In August, 1881, a monument was unveiled over his gravesite. A procession of 200 people was formed at the Temperance Hall before progressing to the private burial ground of the Kendall family for the unveiling. The monument was described as being of "massive, simple design" and composed of Pymont freestone and including the emblems of the Orange Institution and the Protestant Alliance Friendly Society. It was designed and executed by Kiama "monumental artist and mason", John Simmons.

*** ** *

JAMES ROBB ESQ - Another great loss is felt in the community with the passing of James Robb Esq of the Riversdale Estate, in November, 1881. Mr Robb was the eldest son of James Robb of Barn Hill, Perthshire Scotland, and was born in September, 1805. In 1827 he travelled to Australia and worked under indenture with William Walker, a merchant of Sydney. After three years he established himself as a builder - a business he continued until 1843 when he purchased the Riversdale Estate in Kiama. "...Here he soon commenced the cultivation of the grape vine for which the district was then believed to be well adapted, and introduced a number of Germans acquainted with this industry. The experiment, however, was unsuccessful and dairying soon became profitable and attractive. At a more recent period, Mr Robb tried the experiment of growing sugar cane... but though the canes grew and flourished during the summer, it was found that in the winter the frost of the Minnamurra flats was too strong for them... In 1839 Mr Robb married the eldest daughter of Mr William McIntosh of Sydney and had a family of 14 - seven sons and seven daughters, of whom five sons and six daughters survive... Mr Robb's funeral took place on Friday afternoon. The hearse, as might have been expected, was followed from his house at Riversdale to the public cemetery by a large procession of carriages and pedestrians."

Kiama Independent
November 29, 1881

The Ned Kelly 'craze'

THE 1870s and 1880s saw great interest shown in adventures of our famous bushrangers including Ben Hall and Captain Moonlight. No bushranger, however, captured the public's attention quite like Ned Kelly and his gang.

The Kelly Gang spent 18 months "outraging and evading justice" and, by the time of its demise in 1880, had been elevated to legendary status on a nation-wide scale and the mood was no different in Kiama.

Describing the phenomenon as a "Kelly craze", the Kiama Independent published any item it could on the gang in an effort to satisfy its local audience. In March 1880, a sighting of Ned Kelly on a tramcar in Melbourne was reported when he was described as being "clean shaved, with the exception of a very heavy black moustache, which was dyed".

This continued until June, 1880, when the Daily Telegraph (republished in the Kiama Independent on July 2, 1880) announced: "Destruction of the Kelly Gang".

The gang had been barricaded in a hotel at Glenrowan, Victoria. A 12-hour siege ensued before the hotel was set alight, killing three members of the Kelly gang. Ned Kelly, who did not make it to the hotel, was caught while attempting to reach his gang.

"His uncouth armour unavailing, his tigerish courage oozing out at

his wounds. Ned Kelly lies at the little station awaiting his despatch to Melbourne. Doctors have examined his wounds and pronounced them not fatal, and the wretch, whose hands are still red with the blood of poor fellows treacherously murdered, will live, not to cheat the gallows, but to die the felon's death he so richly deserves."

Kelly's capture sparked public demonstrations by large crowds of Kelly sympathisers, while a delegation to Government House, led by Kate Kelly, sought to have his death sentence overturned. The Governor said that the decision to execute Kelly had already been made and that it would be "acting cruelly towards Kelly if he held out hope".

The protests continued and increasing crowds gathering to plead Kelly's case but it was all to no avail.

"EXECUTION OF EDWARD KELLY - Edward Kelly was executed this morning in the Melbourne Gaol. The prisoner lost his spirit of bravado soon after his conviction and has occupied his mind with fleeting hopes of reprieve... At half past one o'clock he went to bed, but was alternately dosing and tossing on his couch until five o'clock when he rose and knelt down to prayer. He subsequently returned to his bed and remained there till the wardens arrived to conduct him to his execution. His leg irons were then struck off... Kelly took no breakfast on account of his having

to receive the sacrament. About nine o'clock crowds began to assemble in front of the gaol, and at 10 o'clock there could not have been not less than 5000 present, a mob of the lowest class. Those provided with tickets of admission to witness the execution numbered about 20, principally members of the press and magistrates. Upjohn, the executioner, was summoned to perform his fearful duty for the first time since his appointment. Kelly was then led out on to the trap, preceded by the clergymen and their attendant carrying a large cross. They proceeded to read the prayers for the dead, Kelly reciting the responses in the proper places. The governor of the gaol then directed the executioner to do his duty. Upjohn came forward and placed the fatal noose on the rope, which was pendant from a strong beam overhead, round the neck of the condemned man... Dr Barker, the gaol surgeon, instructed the executioner how to adjust the noose effectively, and this having been done by placing the knot close under the left ear of the condemned, the white cap was drawn closely over his head, covering his entire face. The executioner then stepped off the drop and immediately the signal was given. The convict fell about eight feet. Death must have been instantaneous as, beyond a spasmodic quiver or two of the lower limbs, no motion was visible after the drop fell."

Kiama Independent
November 16, 1880

The story did not end here, however. Within days of Kelly's execution, his siblings - Kate and Jim - took to profiting from his name, exhibiting his belongings - including his grey mare and saddle - in local halls for a one shilling entry

fee. Their decision attracted "much indignation from respectable people" while "drawing large crowds of the lower order" (Daily Telegraph).

The Kellys defended their actions saying that they were simply trying to raise money "in order to leave the country". They followed up their Melbourne exhibitions with a tour of Sydney - attracting even further criticism.

"A RELIABLE witness yesterday said that from 1100 to 1200 persons, almost all belonging to the criminal class, attended the Kelly show on Tuesday night. This would mean between £50 and £60 profit... It is

stated that Ned Kelly's grey mare 'Kitty' is a fraud... People who would show themselves and their brother's property for gain might easily make a mistake in the identity of a horse."

Kiama Independent
November 30, 1880

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Kiama farmers lead the way!

WHEN, in 1883, a representative of the NSW Fresh Food & Ice Company (FF&IC) visited Kiama to secure a supply of good quality butter, no-one knew of the significant impact it would have on the history of dairying not only in Kiama, but Australia.

Within hours of his visit to local farms the representative, Mr Pateson, discovered that some of the area's most successful dairymen were tired of the present, laborious system of dairying. As later pointed out by the Mayor, James Colley, little if any improvement had been made on the system since its use "three thousand years ago on the plains of Babylon". Reports of a new rotary cream separator had filtered in from England, producing reportedly the world's finest quality butter. Naturally, the farmers were keen to join the trend, they just didn't know how.

Encouraged and heartened by the farmers' passion and ambition, Mr Pateson returned to the area to lecture at Kiama and Jamberoo on not just the new cream separators, but the benefits of forming a co-operative - a system whereby the profits were given to the producers, not the speculators. He was joined by FF&IC manager, Mr WG Lock, together with Mr Harding - the accomplished Jerrara Cheese Factory manager. This was followed by a visit to the FF&IC's factory at Mittagong to inspect the factory system in progress.

On May, 1 1883, in a comparatively short paragraph, one of the most historic announcements in the development of Kiama Municipality was made when the NSW Fresh Food & Ice Company announced its intention to establish a co-operative butter and cheese factory - the first co-operative factory of its kind in the Australian Commonwealth.

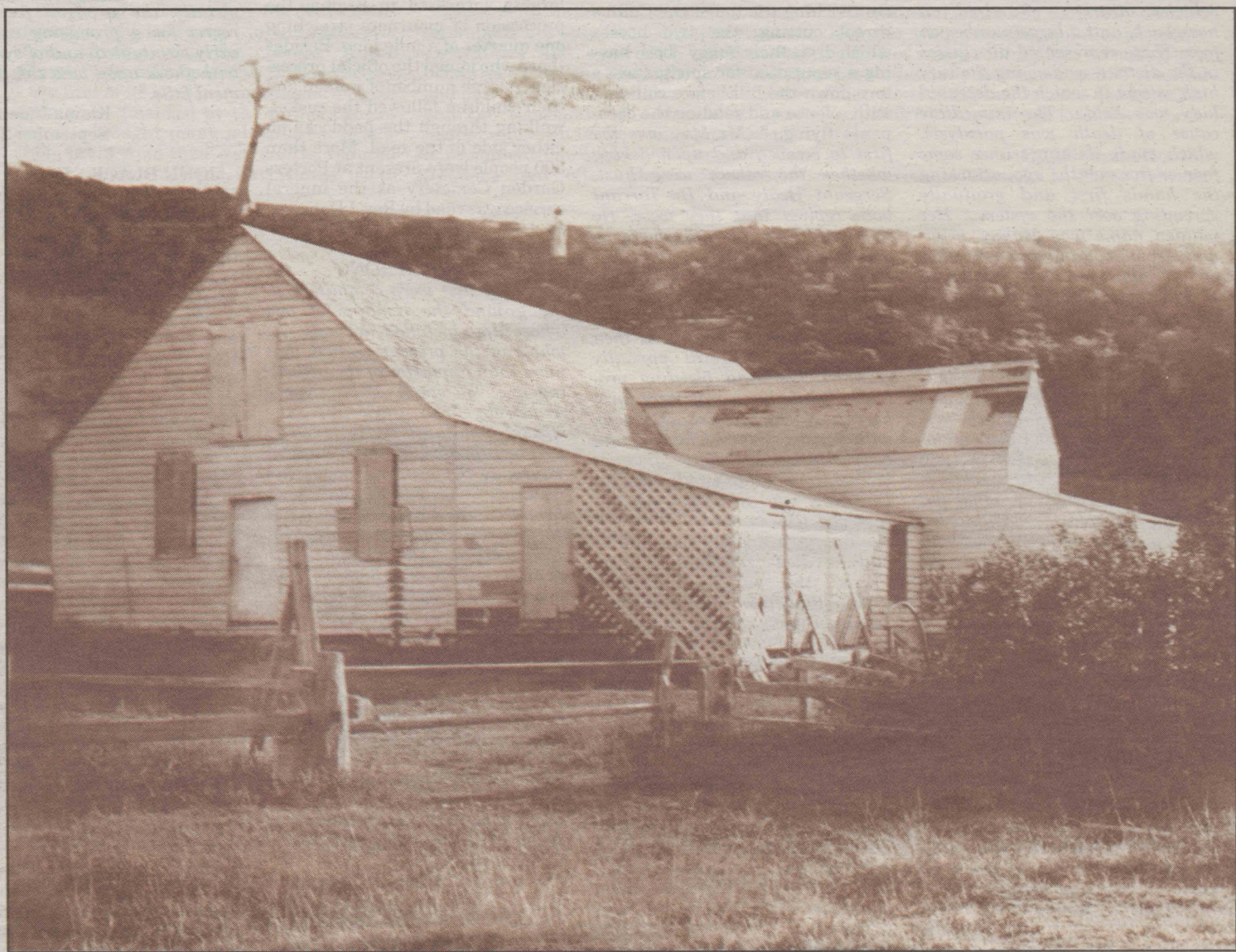
"The proposal was based on the American system known as associated dairying... The advantages were a product of uniform superior character which secured higher prices without losses and the farmer was relieved from the drudgery of individual manufacture."

Blue Haven
William A Bayley

At a meeting in September, William Grey was elected chairman of the company while Joseph Weston was elected secretary. The provisional directors were W Grey, T Honey, W Honey, S Wood & Son, W Boles, J Love, H Robb and J Weston.

While the co-operative method was to prove a revolution in dairy farming, initial waning interest left the entire project hanging by a thread.

After a joint committee of Kiama and Jamberoo farmers was formed, a canvass was made of farmers willing to support a dairy factory and 28 names were collected. But



The original Pioneer Butter Factory at Kiama.

when a meeting was called for the purpose of signing an agreement, only 11 farmers showed. A problem existed in that many of the farmers who were being asked to support the project were lease-holders with leases so short it was impossible for the proposed factory to return their investment before their present terms expired.

The meetings continued, though, with attendances dropping to just five. Matters were not assisted by rumour-mongers who peddled the line that good quality butter

could not be produced under the proposed system. Undeterred, the committee pressed on - largely through the efforts of Messrs William Grey and Joseph Weston - and the project was slowly brought to fruition, many farmers deciding to invest their private, hard-earned savings to finance the project.

At Kiama, two sites for the factory were suggested, one at Terragong and the other at the former steam flour mill in Terralong Street. Both were rejected in favour of a site on a portion of the Riversdale estate owned by

John Honey and leased by George Wood who made two acres available. The site was deemed more preferable as a larger supply of milk was promised if the factory was built west of Pike's Hill.

Mr Harding, meantime, agreed to lend his skills, taking on the position as manager for the first year.

The Fresh Food & Ice Company assisted the factory's establishment with the offer of two cream separators and "butter-workers". The separators operated on the centrifugal or Danish principle, by which every particle of cream could be taken from the milk and the whole made into butter and cheese within a few hours of milking.

At a meeting held in November, 1883, the directors of the company took up the offer before adjourning, the following day, to the factory site where Messrs Harding and Honey pegged out the site for fencing and the soon-to-be built factory. The property was reported as being well-watered, an 18ft well being available.

In the New Year of 1884, the directors proved their eagerness, complaining to the relevant contractor that the proceedings were not moving fast enough. Tenders for fencing the factory and pig yards were called while an inspection of a suitable steam engine was organised at the prompting John Robb, engineer of Sydney.

By mid-March, the two cream separators had arrived - ordered by the FF&IC from England's prestigious Aylsbury Dairy Factory - while the cheeses presses and vats were in a process of construction. Further developments were made with the guidance of Mr Lock who made both onsite visits while also accompanying the directors to Sydney to assist with the acquisition of a 10 horse-power engine and two Tauge boilers.

Jamberoo Dairy Factory

True to Mr Dymock's hopes (see inset), moves toward the establishment of a co-operative for the manufacture of butter and cheese at Jamberoo was begun in July, 1884, with start-up capital of £1500 in one pound shares being collected. The *Independent* hailed the step - which came just one month after the opening of the Kiama Factory - as "one that unmistakably recognises the march of progress".

Official opening of the Kiama Pioneer Butter Factory

"Kiama shall not be beaten by any dairying district in Australasia"

Henry H Honey, Riversdale

The Kiama Pioneer Butter Factory was officially opened amid much fanfare on June 18, 1884. Again, as with the official opening of Kiama Harbour, the opening was by invitation only and included 70 gentlemen representing the dairying interests of the Illawarra, together with Messrs Lock and Pateson of the NSW Fresh Food & Ice Company.

The total cost of the factory, including caretaker's cottage, was estimated at £1760 sterling. Ten gallon milk cans were also purchased to save farmers the individual expense, while a special churn - the first of its kind in the colony - was imported from England. Low-cost butter kegs, meantime, were imported from America.

The official proceedings opened with the display of a cream separator with 40 gallons being put through in 20 minutes.

"...to see about one-eighth of it issue from one pipe pure cream, and the other seven-eighths from another pipe skim milk without a particle of cream in it, was not only a novelty in Kiama but certainly a pretty sight to see, and by some it was regarded as simply wonderful. Boilers, engine, shafting, belts, separators, hot and cold pipes, pumps &c, worked smoothly without a single hitch, and

Mr Lock - the highest authority there - pronounced the whole A1."

After the conclusion of the separating process and an inspection of the premises, the christening process was performed by the wife of President, William Grey, she "breaking the inevitable bottle on the standard of the engine and declaring the Pioneer Factory duly opened".

The gathering then adjourned to lunch provided by the company directors and dispensed by their respective wives. A sample of butter made by company secretary, Mr Henry Honey, from cream obtained at the first trial of the separator almost two weeks prior was exhibited and, "in grain, colour, sweetness and quality, was considered excellent, though some would prefer more salt, it only having at the rate of two pounds of salt to 100 pounds of butter".

Mr Honey opened the speeches: *"...it affords me very great pleasure indeed to be associated with a number of gentlemen who have pluckily struck out for the purpose of introducing an improved system of carrying out the leading industry of this our beautiful district of verdant hills and fertile vales. That the system of dairying which was hitherto prevailed needs amending, or*

rather, that it needs to be abandoned and succeeded by an improved method will, I think, scarcely be denied... and while thinking, or might I almost say dreaming over it, there appeared among us a gentleman representing the NSW Fresh Food & Ice Co (Mr Pateson)... I can only say that what you have seen today is the result of a combined and determined effort to introduce an improved system of dairying, and a determination that Kiama shall not be beaten by any dairying district in Australasia... To the shareholders I have but one thing to say, 'Pull, pull together boys, like brothers everyone.'

Joseph Weston spoke next, paying tribute to the FF&IC, specifically Messrs Lock and Pateson, saying that the factory would not have been in existence "if it had not been for the assistance of that company".

David Lindsay Dymock described the opening of the factory as a 'red letter day in the history of Kiama' and added his hopes that the factory system would become a regular fixture in the district.

R Miller Esq, JP, added his insight as one of the area's oldest residents, remembering when the factory site was covered with bush and Tommy Wilson - the district's only blacksmith - had his shop close by.