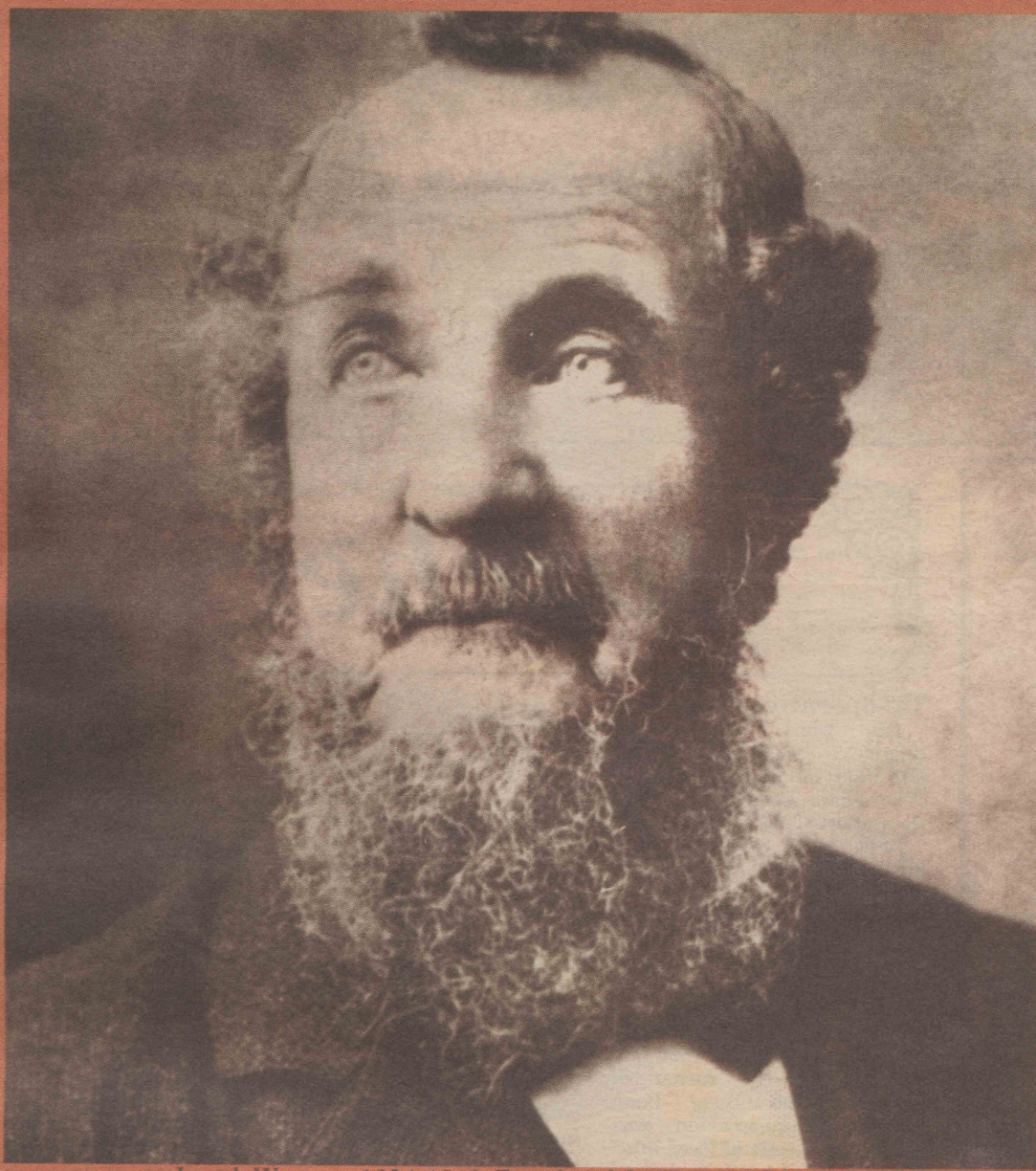


Kiama

M U N I C I P A L I T Y

OUR HISTORY IN PRINT



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

Volume 5

COLLECTOR'S EDITION

June 2000

A Kiama Independent
Twelve Volume Millennium Feature

Individual Copies \$2 available from Kiama Independent office

~ 1890-1894 ~

1890 to 1894 largely represented a significant event in human history when, one by one, the last of the Kiama district's pioneer residents died, passing the reigns of the area over to a second generation of citizens.

Having followed the trials and tribulations of these original folk, it is with some sadness that we entered a new era, knowing that those familiar old faces would no longer be recorded at public meetings, offering

their heartfelt opinions, their time, energy and money for the latest community cause.

While some died by natural attrition, others were taken prematurely. On Boxing Day, 1893, the community was plunged into great mourning when seven people from three prominent families drowned on the Minnamurra River.

In the history of the district, several tragedies occurred which left an indelible impact on the respective generation. This tragedy could rightly be regarded the first

devastating blow to the community's innocence.

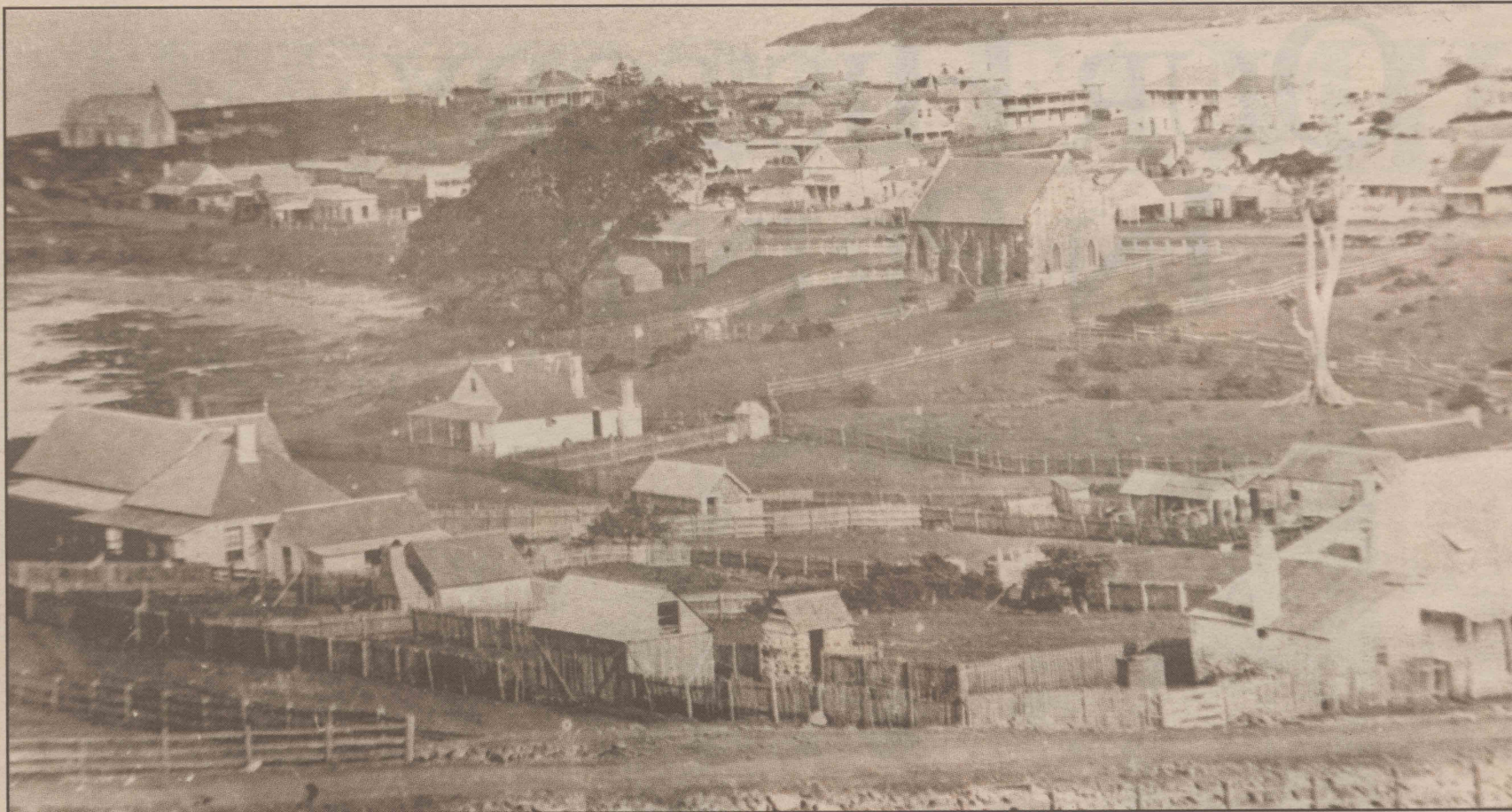
1890-94 was also an era of celebration when Kiama's stately Oddfellow's Hall was opened with a grand ball in 1890, bringing a touch of glamour to the town.

In 1893, trade, commerce and passenger carriage was boosted with the completion of the Illawarra Railway line from Kiama to Nowra.

After a shaky union lasting 32 years, the boroughs of Kiama and Jamberoo decided it

was best for all concerned if they went their separate ways. Irreconcilable differences were cited, but the state of Kiama Council's finances did not help matters. In 1891, following a Government audit, it was discovered that Council's bookkeeping was in a state of disarray, prompting the *Independent's* extraordinary call for the dismissal of long-serving Council Clerk, James Somerville.

By Michelle Hoctor
Research Assistant: Chloe Ashbolt



View of east Kiama

Kiama in the 1880s. Note the Presbyterian Church at centre and the Kiama Council Chambers beside it, on its eastern border (partially concealed by the famous old fig tree). Tory's Hotel - built in 1888 - is yet to be constructed.

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Butchery, roads

Co-operative Butchery

The word "co-operative" became a catchphrase of the late 1800s following the success of local dairy farmers in pooling their efforts for a common good.

In February, 1890, at a meeting held to discuss the desirability of establishing a co-operative butchery business, the proposal was given the go-ahead and finances were immediately sought.

The "Co-operative Butchering Company" was officially opened on August 16, 1890 in a building on the corner of Manning and Bong Bong Streets. The occasion was marked by a sale of "beef, mutton and small goods including tripe, cow heels &c".

The co-operative's manager, Mr John Hall, recently arrived from Wagga Wagga, had spared no trouble in making the establishment as attractive as possible.

"...on Saturday and Wednesday nights last (he) had the windows tastefully and artistically decorated. On Saturday night the decorations consisted of sheets of tin perforated to represent various letters and figures such as the Rose, Thistle and Shamrock, and knife and steel scales and weights, with the word 'Justice' printed below... On Wednesday night the decorations were of a totally different nature, being composed of mutton and suet melted, and made into figures, designating 'Kiama Ghost', 'Coonabarra', 'Snake Yarn', and a slaughtered bullock with the words 'Dead Bird' written below. There is also a train consisting of an engine and six carriages stretching almost right across, under which is the

words 'Kiama to Nowra'... Mr Hall deserves great credit for his works of art as it entirely surpasses anything of that description seen in Kiama."

Kiama Independent
August 16, 1890

Roads

Heavy rains in February, 1890, played havoc with local roads. A land slip was recorded at Mt Pleasant while necessary repairs were made in Bong Bong Street.

"IN consequence of the extreme wet weather that prevailed last week, a dangerous land slip occurred on the Gerringong road in the vicinity of Mt Pleasant. The Gerringong Council, we believe, were very prompt in sending the necessary day men to repair the damage, and the road is now in a proper and passable state again."

"We are glad to observe that some slight improvements have been made to Bong Bong Street which, by the way, is about the worst street in the town in wet weather. One or two dangerous holes have been filled up, and the day-man of the Council has been at work draining the footpath. At yesterday's council meeting it was decided to make some substantial repairs to this street. It might here be stated that the old complaint of horses and vehicles being ridden and driven on the footpaths still continues, and will do so until someone comes forward - fearless of offending - and make the necessary aggressors pay for the infringement of the Council's orders."

Kiama Independent
February 28, 1890

A month later, the roads at Jamberoo were reported to be in even worse condition, attributed in part to the removal of the town's "day-man" (outdoorsman), Ned Morrissey, who appeared to be a bit of a town character.

"Our main roads and bye-roads are a disgrace to civilisation, even though that civilisation be represented by our municipality and the officialdom of the Roads Department. Loudly expressed desires for separation are now frequently heard... nothing but but bad luck has attended our roads since that admirable and matchlessly good humoured specimen of mankind - Ned Morrissey - was taken off from being day-man. Under Ned's reign, the water tables were kept clear, and breaking holes were speedily filled, and the possibilities of increased damage during continued rains lessened. The removal of the day man was certainly false economy, as large sums of money might have been saved by a little attention 'here and there', not to speak of the moral advantage to travellers in being reminded that "time flies" by Ned's query as to 'What toime of dhay moight id be now, sor?'"

Jamberoo Correspondent
Kiama Independent
March 11, 1890

Kiama Railway Station

A colonial wanting directions to the soon-to-be built Kiama Railway Station might have been given the following, comprehensive rundown.

"The line runs between Manning and Shoalhaven Streets, but considerably nearer the former than the latter. The

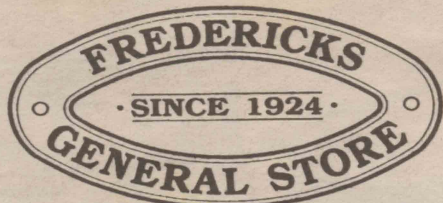
station will be 71 miles from Sydney... the line just skirts eastward of the Presbyterian Church and westward of the Council Chamber, absorbing Mr Bullen's business premises in Terralong Street and five or six private dwellings facing Bong Bong Street, in addition to intermediate outhouse structures... the station site commences at the north side of Bong Bong Street, which is a short stone's throw beyond it. From the north side of that street, the station area extends southward a short distance, to the rear of the late David Smith's residence, and across Noorinan Street, to the north side of Barney Street, slightly southward of being opposite the Roman Catholic Church... the gross area being nine acres... A high level bridge will doubtless extend over the railway in Bong Bong Street. Altogether the station site as now laid out by the Railway department is opposite 'Storm Bay'."

Kiama Independent
June 27, 1890

Kiama Harbour

Despite a new reliance on the Illawarra railway system for commerce and travel, the Kiama Harbour continued to play a key role in local affairs, especially in the haulage of blue metal.

In 1890, a sum of £2000 was voted by the Government to assist with improvements around the harbour including paving.



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'Go-ahead' Kiama, Miss Swindell's

Kiama in 1890

As anticipated, the arrival of rail in Kiama stimulated local commerce and led to a surge in population. In September, 1890, the *Kiama Independent* noted that the township had assumed a "go-ahead" appearance, with the local building industry moving into overdrive to cater for demand. The following, it appears, describes construction work being undertaken along today's Railway Parade. Note also that the site previously referred to as "the water reserve" (Hindmarsh Park) has been given a name - North Kiama Park - while caretakers have been employed to ensure its maintenance.

"...Passing enroute from the town to the railway terminus, the eye of the traveller comes in contact with

no less than 10 timber cottages being erected on the hill to the right. This ground is the property of Mr G Wood, storekeeper of this town, and the buildings are being erected for him. Six of them are being built by White & Davies, and the remaining four by Mr Joseph Harris. They are to be five-roomed cottages and when erected will be as convenient as any similar tenements in the town. Besides the five rooms, they are to have front and back verandahs, storeroom and wash-house with copper and other conveniences... White & Davies also have the following building improvements in hand - a shop and dwelling house for Mr MN Hindmarsh, adjoining the Oddfellows Hall in Collins-street; and a caretaker's lodge for the trustees of the North Kiama Park.

Kiama Independent
September 9, 1890

Kiama Collegiate School

In December, 1892, the *Independent* commented on various building projects throughout the town, including that of an extension to Miss Swindell's Kiama Collegiate School which was opened in 1890 and operated in Shoalhaven Street.

Miss Swindell was described as "a lady of very high educational standing", having held the positions of principal of the Ladies' College, Launceston Tasmania, and Assistant-Mistress of the Girls' Grammar School in Brisbane.

In taking up residence in Kiama, she established an institution, "the success of which has been a home word in many families, in which its

benefits have been specially manifested". The site chosen for the school was a residence in Shoalhaven Street, for many years the home of the late Mr W Anderson, and now known as "Melrose".

"...Here the lady referred to commenced her useful work, and her energy, practicability and kindness to her pupils won for her the increasing esteem from many residents."

Kiama Independent
December 6, 1892

The number of Miss Swindell's pupils steadily increased to the point where existing accommodation was "overtaxed" and the construction of a new schoolroom was considered a necessity. This building was completed by the end of November, 1892, and included two

"substantial and comfortable rooms for the accommodation of resident pupils. The building stands on an elevated site, some 10 or 12 feet above the level of the old schoolroom... and provides for the most perfect mode of drainage possible... six unusually large windows give the building a light and cheerful appearance... It is estimated that the schoolroom is competent to seat between 70 and 80 pupils... It might be mentioned, as an illustration of the proficiency of the school, that one of the pupils, Miss Hilda Whittingham, was successful in obtaining a good pass in five subjects in the most recent University examinations. This fact alone speaks well for the capabilities of the Principal and her efficient teaching staff."



The 'old' Brighton Hotel - built on the site of the former Steam Packet Inn.



The original Tory's Hotel (complete with wrought iron balcony) - built in 1888.



The Grand Hotel (again with its original balcony) built in 1891.

'Grand' hotels

Keen followers of local history might be wondering why, to date, there has been no mention of the district's historic hotels - namely Kiama's Tory's Hotel and Brighton Hotel, Jamberoo Hotel, and the Ocean View Hotel at Gerringong - all of which were built by 1890.

The truth is that the establishment of these venues was not chronicled in the *Kiama Independent*. The reason, we surmise, was because of the strong temperance movement which reigned during the latter half of the 1800s and dictated that promotion of such establishments was not encouraged.

This is not to say the hotels did not get a mention - they featured regularly in the annals of the Kiama Police Court charge lists when patrons appeared on charges of drunkenness and other related offences.

The New Grand Hotel

The fluster of the temperance movement had waned by 1891, though, when the progress of the "New Grand Hotel" was well documented.

"We understand the contractor for the New Grand Hotel, Mr A Smith, contemplates having the same finished by the end of the present month. The work on the inside is completed, with the exception of painting and varnishing, and but little of the outside work remains to be done. At the northern end of the hotel, and immediately adjoining the same, is to be a large store, but it will be some time before it is ready for use. On the top of the store, on the second storey, is the billiard room in connection with the hotel, while still further aloft, on the third storey, is the same room for the use of commercial travellers. The hotel, when finished, will be

second-to-none on the South Coast for workmanship."

Kiama Independent
October 16, 1891

History Quiz

What was Kiama's first hotel? It was the Gum Tree Inn, established in 1837 on the

corner of Manning and Bong Bong Streets and which doubled as the first home built in Kiama by David Smith.

The second inn, the Steam Packet Hotel was established by James Marks in east Terralong Street and was licensed in 1842.

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Olympic Fact No. 2

The Sydney 2000 Olympic Games mascots were chosen as they represent elements of the Australian landscape.

From the water came the platypus, named Syd for Sydney, the host city of the 2000 Olympic Games; from the land the echidna, Millie, for the dawn of the new millennium and from the air the kookaburra, Olly for the Olympic Games.

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Oddfellows Hall, cottages

The Oddfellows Hall

In our last historical supplement we reported on a movement to establish a town hall on the site previously earmarked for an Oddfellows Hall. The organisation - whose official title was the Loyal Star of the South, MU, No. 113 - was formed 13 years prior, its membership growing from 14 to 100.

Meetings were held in the Kiama Courthouse before plans were released to build a hall on land "presented" to the Lodge by Mr MN Hindmarsh in 1880. The Oddfellows spent £700 on foundations before financial difficulties forced a stop-work.

In 1889 the community, feeling the need for a town hall and acknowledging that the Oddfellows Hall might never be completed, held a public meeting to discuss the desirability of raising the funds to complete the hall as a community project.

This vigour appeared to provide a catalyst for the Oddfellows who overcame their problems and raised the necessary funds to complete the building themselves. In February, 1890, tenders were called and Mr GH Stoker's tender for £1380 was accepted. The hall was to include a main floor which contained 3500 "superficial feet" of floor space and seating for 600 together with another 200 seats in the gallery room. Two lodge rooms 40ftx30ft and three ante-rooms were to be constructed underneath the main floor. The stage was to be 20ft deep by 25ft wide.

Construction was then recommenced, Mrs MN Hindmarsh laying the foundation stone on March 19, 1890.

The project was finalised in October, 1890, and a grand ball was held to mark the official opening and which was attended by 100 people. The following item not only provides an outline of the evening's festivities, but a description of a "magnificent" building which formed a significant role in Kiama's history but which is no longer standing.

"...The floor of the hall is of the best description and was specifically prepared for dancing... we have it from many who mixed in the merry maze, that the floor was superb. Just below the ceiling, and at the top of the proscenium is displayed the British Coat of Arms, under which is the well-known French quotation, 'Dieu et mon droit', 'God and my right'. Under this again is the Australian Coat of Arms, while on each side of the stage are shown the busts of two of the world's greatest and most gifted of mankind, Shakespeare and Mozart... The

building has been handsomely fitted out with chairs, piano, scenery etc and what is certainly a most important feature, it is well lit."

Kiama Independent

October 14, 1890
In an unprecedented move, the *Independent* then went on to describe the attire of every lady present at the opening (while also providing an insight into elegant attire of the period). The opening was obviously the premier event of the year and represented a step into high society for the locals who were so accustomed to being squeezed into the Temperance Hall for their gala events.

"...Mrs Stoker, old gold silk and black spanish lace... Miss Larkin, creme liberty silk, very nicely made; Misses Courtneys, white tulle skirt, satin body to match same, and ruby velvet trimmings, pink satin and spangled net, both very nice... Miss Hacking, embroidered dress, trimmed with swansdown and sprays of flowers... Mrs R King, black mervilleaux trimmed with pink roses; Miss Geagan, skirt of creme lace, pale blue satin body with pearls and ribbons; Mrs Faetzeus, black satin, beaded trimmings and white ribbons, white feather fan; Mrs H Ettingshausen, black with pink trimmings and flowers; Miss K Atkinson, silver spangled grenadine with sprays of flowers... Mrs G Tory, flowered delaine with ribbons (cardinal) and lace."

While the *Independent* was lax to name "the belle" of the ball, it noted that "Miss Larkin was particularly neatly attired". For the overall prize, though, the *Independent* suggested that the ladies "fight it out amongst themselves".

Mechanics Institute

On July 31, 1891, the *Government Gazette* announced that a block of land, known locally as the School of Arts lot and containing two roads and situated on the west side of Manning Street, "about midway between Bong Bong Street and the creek", was to be resumed with a view to its sale under the Crown Lands Act. Part of that allotment was dedicated as a site for a mechanics institute. The lot had one chain frontage to Manning Street, immediately opposite the Commercial Bank and adjoining the Telegraph and Post Office allotments - basically, the site of today's 'Old' Kiama Council Chambers.

Courthouse beautification

Twelve months later, we learned that the ever enthusiastic Kiama Police Senior Sergeant Brayne

intended to beautify the Kiama Courthouse by laying out a garden in front of it, similar to that located at his own residence (the Kiama Lock-up Keepers' residence) and the police station. "This will add a feature of attraction to the building", the *Kiama Independent*

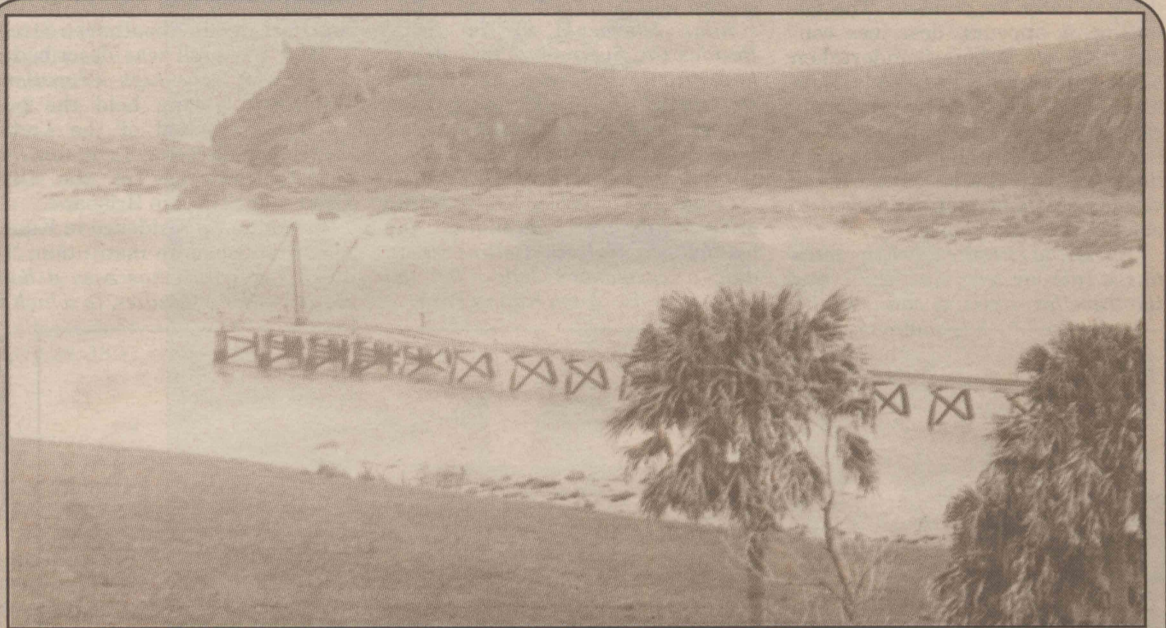
noted.

Mr J Colley's Cottages

Also included in the exposé was a commentary on twin cottages being constructed in Terralong Street (opposite Woolworths) for Mr J Colley jun, late of Kiama. Both cottages stood within six feet of the

street alignment, "a beautiful garden supervening - with artistically cut and perforated fronts and doors of stained glass".

Each contained a dining room, four bedrooms, kitchen, wash-house, lobby and bathroom.



Gerringong's original Boat Harbour jetty - before it was partially destroyed in a storm in 1891.

Storm hits Gerringong jetty

In 1891, Gerringong's hard-fought for jetty was partially destroyed in a storm, prompting the local Council to make immediate efforts for its

repair. By January, 1892, it was reported that a large quantity of timber from the Jervis Bay district had landed at the Kiama wharf and was in the

process of being carted to Gerringong, where it would be used to not only repair the existing jetty, but extend its length.



Storm damage - the Gerringong Boat Harbour jetty in the aftermath of the 1891 storm.

PHOTOS: Ken Miller Collection.

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High hats the 'height' of fashion

This postcard from the 1890s shows not only the style of women's dress, but that high hats were the 'height' of fashion.



Women 'getting taller'

By 1893, the *Independent* observed that women were, on average, becoming taller with each generation. The reason? Physical activity.

"THE PEOPLE OF TO-DAY - It is sometimes asserted that the race of men of the present day has deteriorated in size. Even if this were true of men, it is certainly not so in the case of women, for year by year we see taller and finer-grown girls making their appearance in society, and whereas twenty years ago five feet six inches was considered tall for a woman, many in the present day exceed that height by an inch or two... The answer to this apparent anomaly may, we presume, be found in the modern love for gymnastics and the development of physical activity in the girls of the present day. Lawn tennis, boating &c are all modern amusements, introduced within the last score of years, and they are building up for us a new race of strong, handsome, young women, glowing with the roses of health and graceful from the ease and freedom of their movements. No wonder the Greeks studied the hygiene of the body with a view to perfect beauty. For perfect beauty is nothing but perfect health."

Kiama Independent
March 11, 1893

Council splits, Clerk quits

Municipal Separation

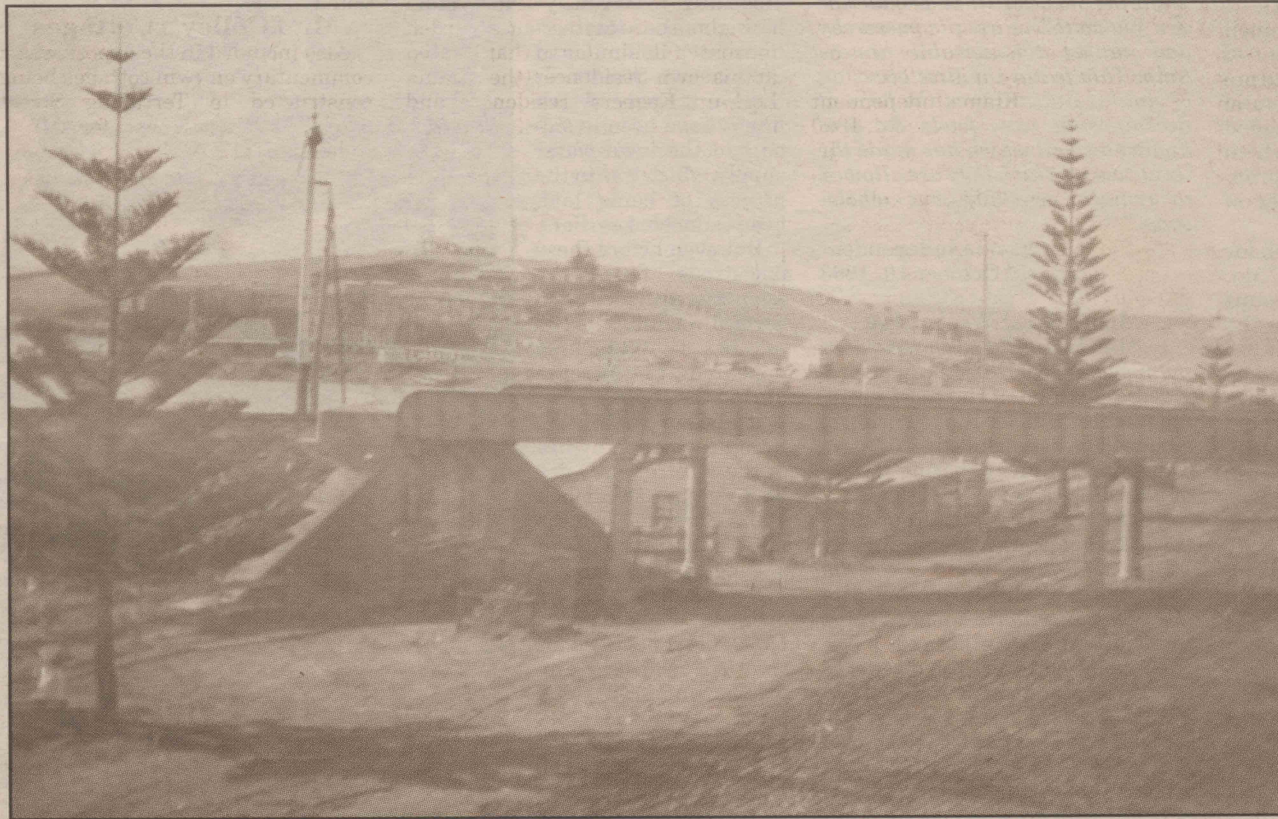
Three attempts at separating Kiama and Jamberoo Wards into two distinct councils were made since Kiama Municipality was first pronounced in 1859. In the first two, the movement was initiated by the ratepayers of Jamberoo. The first campaign, lodged in 1862, was fuelled by the expediency of the Pike's Cutting project. The second - in the mid-1880s - saw ratepayers object to the Kiama Tramway project which ultimately failed, leaving a debt that was judged as having been caused "by the mismanagement and blundering in connection with this speculation".

By 1890, however, the tide had turned, Kiama believing it had grounds for becoming an entity in its own right. The campaign was given impetus when the *Kiama Independent* editorialised on the logic of such a move, saying that it was "not so much from a conviction that small municipalities were more to be preferred than large ones", but rather on account of "Kiama having developed in population and business into a town".

One of the arguments involved the issue of voting rights. On a municipality-wide basis, where each of the wards of Kiama, Gerringong and Jamberoo held three votes, Kiama believed it was insufficiently represented, it holding the greater portion of the district's 1307 voters.

This 'insufficiency' was sorely felt during a discussion on the Kiama Tramway project. The original intention was that the project costs would be shared between the three wards of Kiama, Gerringong and Jamberoo on the understanding that the proceeds would be split three ways. But this intention was later over-ruled by a 6-3 majority when the decision was made to at once reimburse Gerringong and Jamberoo £1214. When the tramway project collapsed, and all hope of a profit was lost, Kiama was left severely out of pocket.

And while the general opinion was that the outside wards should not contribute to Kiama's expenses such as lighting the streets with gas, those living in Kiama disagreed, they believing the southern and Jamberoo wards must con-



Beach view for Kiama's first Council Chambers

This photograph is one of the better pictures which shows the original Kiama Council Chambers - built in Terralong Street on the right side of the Kiama Presbyterian Church and overlooking the picturesque Black Beach. Meetings became even more rowdy when the Kiama overhead railway bridge was built nearby in 1893.

tribute because they benefitted indirectly whenever they visited the town, especially when delivering produce to Kiama Harbour.

The petition for separation of Kiama from Jamberoo and Southern Wards was sent on April 3, 1890, to the Colonial Secretary who appointed George Lewis, District Government Officer, to hold an enquiry. At this enquiry it was established that Kiama had been neglected during the previous seven years as the rates were mortgaged to the bank. Also established was that the most ratepayers - including the representatives of Kiama Municipal Council - favoured separation.

The separation was proclaimed in the *Government Gazette* on October 31, 1890, Kiama township being governed by the 'Kiama East Borough Council', and Jamberoo by the 'Kiama Borough Council'. Both councils, however, received a name change to Kiama Municipal Council and Jamberoo Municipal Council respectively in March, 1892.

Separation was celebrated by a

banquet at the Protestant Hall, Jamberoo, while the first meeting of the council was held at Jamberoo on November 21, 1890. The six aldermen elected to the first Jamberoo Council included Alderman Somerville (Mayor), John Noble, King, T Fredericks, E Cole and DL Dymock. Future meetings continued in the Protestant Hall until a Council Chambers was constructed.

Kiama East, meantime, was left with the task of electing nine aldermen to its ranks, an occasion described as "phenomenal" by the *Independent*, especially as 25 nominations had been received. Polling was held on December 23 with the following being elected: Alderman W Cocks (Mayor), AG Russell, W Carson, W Boles, D Salmond, SS Wells, HF Mood, Noble and MN Hindmarsh.

The first meeting of the Council of the borough of East Kiama did not receive a favourable write-up by the *Independent* which said that "business done...cannot be regarded as satisfactory by the ratepayers".

Calls to retire Council Clerk

At the first meeting of the East Kiama Council in December, 1891, the main item on the agenda was discussing the position of council clerk - the need being regarded as pressing in view of the council's inherited £4000 debt.

In reporting on the debate, the *Independent* expressed hopes that the position would be put to tender and not automatically handed to the "old clerk", referring to James Somerville who had served in the position since 1867 and who had only recently been appointed Clerk of the newly-formed Kiama (Jamberoo) Council. At issue was council's book keeping which had left a lot to be desired over the years and which had led to a great deal of confusion when Council discussed the matter of separation and what amounts would be owing to whom.

This was especially the case with the failed Kiama Tramway project. Various efforts were made to obtain an exact figure and this continued over several years. It was not until the Local Government Officer, Mr Lewis, inspected the books in August, 1890, that the cause of the problem was discovered. In asking to see

Council's loan account book, Mr Lewis found that no such book existed and that the tram loan account had been "mixed up" with the rate account.

Mr Somerville had apparently resisted efforts to change the book keeping system which had not been altered since his appointment 23 years prior. The community - and, it was believed, most aldermanic representatives - saw the separation of Kiama and Jamberoo as an opportunity to instigate a 'changing of the guard'. The *Independent*, meantime, published a scathing exposé on the Town Clerk and called for his replacement.

"...there cannot be a doubt that the large majority of the ratepayers in Kiama East would, 'all things being equal', prefer a change... every auditor who has held office since then (1885) have one and all declared that the audits under the present system are a farce... A drastic reform of this kind is a necessity, but it is not likely. After so many years' persistent and successful opposition with his own faulty system, the old Clerk will look with complacency on any change."

Kiama Independent
January 2, 1891

The *Independent* fully expected its calls for Mr Somerville's replacement to be met, saying its sentiments were shared by the majority of aldermanic representatives on the newly-formed council.

In April, 1891, the beleaguered

clerk was given two weeks' notice to quit the council house - a formality so that he might tender for the office of clerk for the East Kiama Council. Mr Somerville instead provided four weeks' notice of resignation. When, in May, 1891, Kiama Council met to consider the position of Clerk, Mr Somerville's name was missing from the line-up, he not submitting a tender. Three tenders, in all, were lodged, from George Brown (£30 per annum), John Holbrook (£35 per annum) and Sydney Carpenter (£50 per annum). The decision was between Messrs Brown and Holbrook. Mr Holbrook was appointed on the casting vote of the Mayor.

Mr Somerville, meantime, had apparently resolved to concentrate on his role as clerk of the Jamberoo Council, but even here his appointment came under fire, especially as he had been appointed outright, without submitting a tender.

"...when this point came on for consideration, the council humiliates itself by appointing a deputation to wait on the Clerk for the purpose of learning the sum he has decided shall be the amount of his salary, and ignores the position of the ratepayers who, if the office had been let by tender, could have found an equally competent recipient at about half the cost."

The *Independent* also pointed out the folly of appointing an officer who "lives six miles away from the Council Chamber".

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Kiama Independent, November 20, 1891

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Nuisance Inspector

In May, 1891, Kiama Council met to discuss the office of Nuisance Inspector. The position was similar to that of a pound keeper, only his role also included roaming sheep and horses which wandered into neighbouring properties and caused all manner of mischief.

Council received only one tender for the position, from John Chin, but he was passed over on account of his being "rather too old" for the position. Fresh tenders were called and Mr HD Cooke was appointed to the position. Within months Mr Cooke had proved his worth and was found to be quite diligent in his work. The following account, by a correspondent known only as "JF", provides yet another account of the daily annoyances facing the colonial.

"A NEW ERA - How thankful the residents of Kiama ought to be, to be sure, that at length there is a chance of the flocks and herds, which have hitherto held undisputed sway over our thorough-fares, both night and day, being rounded up and placed securely in the receptacle prepared for their incarceration. No more will the slumberer be disturbed by the cow who comes especially to call nightly at his bedroom window for its departed offspring, long since converted into veal by the relentless butcher; never again will he who goes to rest late and got up proportionately early be awakened by the hideous combination of brays and resounding hoofs on the pavement below, and for a resident to come out at early morn to view his desecrated and ruined garden, with his very choicest rosebush chewed off by the roots and utterly destroyed, will be only a thing to be mourned as a sad remnant of the dark and desolate past. No, shortly it will be impossible to find a stray beast of any description roaming around, and all will be peace, sweet, ineffable peace. That our local Nuisance Inspector is carrying out his duties to the letter there cannot be the least shadow of doubt."

Kiama Independent
January 26, 1892

By October, 1893, however, the respective Nuisance Officer appeared to be slipping in his duties.

"A PUBLIC NUISANCE - It may well be for the public health to draw the attention of the local aldermen to the fact that a decomposed cat lies festering in the public gaze in Terralong-street, opposite Dr Terrey's which, if their nasal organs have failed to

acquaint them of it, is productive of a stench which assails passersby and causes considerable annoyance. This is not the first occasion of similar nuisances in the form of decomposing rats, fowls &c producing a smell which has made the localities in which they are allowed to remain anything but wholesome."

Kiama Independent
October 10, 1893

Municipal Wish List

In March, 1893, the *Independent* published a 'wish list', which provided a pictured of the most pressing public wants for the township of Kiama. The list included:

- a literary and debating society or a reading room;
- a fire brigade (with Council in the position to finance the water supply);
- a football club reorganised to provide some entertainment during the cold, winter months; and
- money sent from the district to aid the poor and needy in flood-ravaged, northern river districts of NSW ("not the land sharks and grabb-alls").

The latter wish was on the verge of being realised when the committee met for the purpose of establishing a Floods Relief Fund.

District Coroner

In September, 1893, Captain Thomas Honey Esq, JP, took the oaths of office as Coroner of Kiama, before Henry Connell Esq, under a writ of *Dedimus Poteslatem*, issued for that purpose by the Supreme Court. Tragically, Captain Honey would not hold the position for long. Just three months later he drowned in a boating accident on Minnamurra River.

New Pilot Boat

In May, 1894, the local harbour pilot took delivery of a new boat (a colonial rubber ducky) which was reported as being "now snugly stored in the commodious shed erected recently at the slip, on the northern side of the wharf".

The length was 25ft, breadth 3ft 10in; depth 2ft; planking, half-inch cedar; copper fastened throughout; timbers, elm; keel, blue gum; head and stern sheets, each containing a galvanised iron, air tight tank; mast sails and gear complete. Provision was also made for pulling four oars, with a huge steering oar.

Fires

One of the most dramatic news items to emerge from the 1890s was the two great fires of 1899 which razed the entire stretch of

Terralong Street - between the intersections of Collins and Shoalhaven Streets. It was a tragedy which might have been avoided had the town water supply, which was in the process of being laid, been connected earlier.

But even before these disastrous fires, the town was provided with several warnings as the number of building fires appeared to increase during the 1890s.

It began with the total destruction by fire of the Foxground Dairy Factory in December, 1892. Twelve months later, a fire broke out in a general store adjoining Kiama's newly opened Oddfellows Hall. Had it not been for the fact the building was new and contained large, underground water tanks, it was speculated that the entire block of buildings - which also included "Mr Hunter's store and a tobacconist's shop located at the rear of the hall and occupied by Mr F Prot" - would have been destroyed.

The fire was started when a lit match was accidentally dropped on a box containing kerosene, indicating the precariously fragile existence in which the colonials lived.

"FIRE - About half-past 11 on Wednesday night, the alarm of fire was raised in Terralong-street, and in a comparatively short space of time it seemed as though the whole town was astir. The town clock rang vigorously, and people rushed in large numbers to the locality from whence the cry was first raised, which proved to be in one of the large three storey buildings adjoining the Oddfellows Hall, and occupied by Mr PC Williams as a general store. Buckets and sundry other utensils were largely in demand, and with a copious supply of water, drawn from large underground tanks by force pumps the fire, which had good hold on one of the inside walls, was soon overcome and extinguished."

Kiama Independent
November 25, 1893

In September, 1894, a house fire was recorded, again in Kiama.

The home, located in



This photograph depicts the density of the early local forests. It shows four men hard at work in the Kiama district's first industry - cedar getting. In its heyday, up to six ships waited in Kiama Harbour to take cedar to the Sydney market.

Shoalhaven Street, was the property of Mr John Honey and was being leased out. The fire began in the early hours of the morning when the floor in one of the rooms in the upper story of the building became ignited.

"...The boards in the vicinity of the spot, from which smoke was issuing, were quickly removed, and two or three of the joints supporting the floor were found in a smouldering condition. It appears that the inmates of the house have been in

the habit, during the cold weather, of lighting a fire upstairs."

Kiama Independent
September 8, 1894

No time was lost in extinguishing the fire which had done comparatively small damage.

This was considered fortunate as a strong southerly was blowing at the time and could have easily fanned the flames to take out both the Honey building and the home adjoining.

Kiama - As It Was

Throughout the course of our *History In Print* supplements, we have endeavoured to paint a picture of the Kiama district from its earliest days but, according to one colonial, Henry H Honey of Riverdale, no words or even pictures could describe the true, natural beauty of the area, prior to settlement.

Mr Honey, a keen writer and poet who went by the *nom de plume* 'Mel' (Latin for 'honey'), compiled a booklet, *Some Echoes of the Past*, in which he provided some interesting insights about the region's early days.

A Beautiful District

This district has a well-deserved, wide reputation for its beauty, which is particularly noticeable at times of bountiful rainfall, when the hills are clad in verdue green, and the rippling rills run clear; when the kine are sleek, and the lowing herds welcome the glad new year. Such is the reflect beauty largely due to human activity.

Ere this began the Kiama district had a natural beauty of its own, not due to man in any sense whatever, but solely the result of the handiwork of God. Probably few have had a wider privilege of examining the primitive bush lands of eastern Australia than the writer; they were all truly beautiful in their natural state, but more intensely so as Illawarra generally, but more particularly that part in close proximity to Kiama.

There is no pretense here to picture that loveliness to the visitor; other

pens have attempted that task, no doubt faithfully, but they have all failed because of the fact that no pen or brush was ever equal to the task. It has to be seen to be known, and that enchanting privilege has been passed forever.

The utmost one can attempt at the present time is to take the reader, in imagination, to the heights of Saddleback, and open out a wide expanse of dense bush land covering rolling hills and intervening valleys innumerable, the foliage so densely intertwined with vine-growth that not a trace of Mother Earth could be seen, except here and there a rocky outcrop thickly sprinkled with rock lily and other orchids.

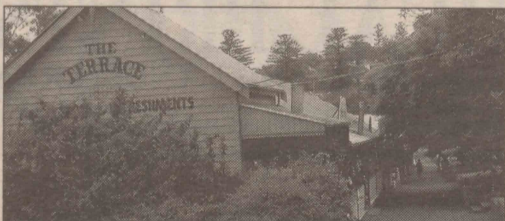
This thick, dense bush growth was multi-coloured, especially in early springtime, when the hillsides were thickly dotted with the vivid flame trees, and the many varieties of cedars in new leaf emblazoned the valleys in many tinted pinks and reds that no painter's brush could ever capture. This on a groundwork of deeply variagated green, from the superb pale clear of the yellow pine to the drab heavy of the boradleaf fig and eucalypti.

Underneath this heavy canopy was a dense carpet of fern-growth such as is never seen except in its natural habitat.

Perhaps one of the kindest wishes (yet all in vain) the writer can extend to any possible reader is that he or she could have looked upon it loveliness in all its primitive beauty.

"MEL"

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



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

Amaki Cottage Cafe - 4232 1214

Enjoy casual cuisine from an extensive menu, blackboard specials, freshly baked cakes and slices. Open 7 days with dinner Friday and Saturday.

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New Age books and music - crystals galore. Tarot, Feng Shui cures, aromatherapy supplies, herbs and spells, myth and magic.

Kiama Artisan Trading - 4232 4608

Offering an unusual collection of unique antique furniture, tribal rugs, artifacts and decorator items from artisans around the world.

Kiama Sidewalk Confectionery Cottage - 4232 1388

Specialising in quality confectionery, gourmet teas, coffees, cordials, jams, mustards, sauces, honey and gift boxes, Australian crafts, balloons and bonsai.

Kiama Kreations - 4232 1233

Specialising in kids toys, teddy bears, nautical and country look decorator gift items and crafts, dolphins, carved animals, frames, candles, terracotta pots, kitchen butcher blocks, country pot hangers etc. and much more.

Pieces of Dreams - 4232 3022

Decoupage Ostrich Eggs, Cheraz rugs, leather hats, Australian made shirts, souvenirs, craft, local and imported gifts to suit all occasions.

Pots of Taste - 4232 1149

Bright and colourful range of pots, tassels and wall plaques, mobiles, windchimes and flower pot people, garden statues and fountains.

Ritzy Gritz New Mexican Grill - 4232 1853

New Mexican Cuisine. Home made desserts, dine or drink licence - Bar menu, margaritas, pina colodas our specialties. Bookings advisable.

Sparkle & Hide - 4233 1700

Specialising in quality leather. Jewellery for all tastes and ages. Beautiful evening bags, pashminas and hair accessories... and the unusual!

Terrace Book Shop - 4232 3155

The latest and the best books for adults and children, as well as classic CDs, prints and special orders.

Terrace Glory Box - 4232 1147

Specialising in exclusive gifts, beautiful novelties, fine bone china, lamps, lace and tablecloths, toiletries, Australian made souvenirs and much, much, more.

The Terrace Gift Shoppe - 4232 1072

Specialising in English sweets, beanie kids (exclusive), airplants, silver jewellery, Coalcraft (exclusive), Australian made T-shirts and hats, souvenirs, Kiddies Korner.

Society & Everyday Living

Shower of frogs

Here's an item straight from the colonial 'X-Files'.

"A SHOWER of frogs, it may be termed such, was witnessed by Captain Garde, of the steamer Illawarra, early one morning last week while laying at the wharf at Shoalhaven. The Captain was on the forcastle when he felt something heavy striking him like hailstones. It was scarcely daybreak at the time and he could not discern what the objects were. At daybreak, however, he saw a sight that simply amazed him; hundreds and thousands of frogs covered the deck, the water and the wharf. The shower lasted about 10 minutes during which time the frogs continued to fall with the rain. The frogs were about 1.5 inches (3.5cms) in length of various colours, strong and healthy in appearance, which suggested that they had not fallen from any great height. The jib sale on the Illawarra formed a receptacle, into the folds of which thousands of these aerial croakers were captured... When seen at Wollongong they were as lively as if they had not performed the wonderful feat related out of their native element. This strange affair causes a recurrence of the fact that large numbers of frogs have been noticed lately about the streets of Wollongong after nightfall."

Kiama Independent
February 14, 1890

A band for Jamberoo?

Jamberoo might have been a delightfully picturesque locality, but according to its Jamberoo correspondent, it was sadly lacking in musical talent. Moves were afoot in March, 1890, to rectify the void but, as can be determined from the following, rather scathing analogy, not much confidence was placed in the outcome.

"...Be this as it may, I am deeply conscious that the sounds that I have heard proceed from a meeting of half a dozen Jamberoo cats were at least more interesting than those I have heard scraped from certain 'parts' of their dead 'fellow creatures' (ie catgut strings on a stringed instrument), popularly, if not erroneously supposed to be stretched on a certain instrument. With a view to remedying this excruciating state of affairs, quite a number of young heroes are endeavouring to organise a 'band' for Jamberoo. I give this information for the benefit of intending visitors, so that they know what it is all about, if they should arrive during the course of operations."

Kiama Independent
March 11, 1890

While Jamberoo's efforts to form a band were viewed with a degree of scepticism, the reputation of the Kiama Brass Band continued to enjoy local renown. By the 1890s the band was booked for just about every public engagement and community celebration, while also staging its own balls.

In July, 1890, the band staged a "Calico Ball" in the Temperance Hall - the theme, it appears, being that revellers attend in garments made of calico. One enterprising young lady from Sydney came attired as "Britannia". Others less adventurous made do with calico sashes which were put to good use at the end of the event.

"...The night was a splendid one for dancing, and although the number in attendance was small, still all seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves. The flags for decorating were kindly lent by Pilot Fraser and the drapings for the window by Mr S Major. During the evening, the calico sashes worn by the ladies were deposited in a basket and are to be handed to the Kiama Hospital."

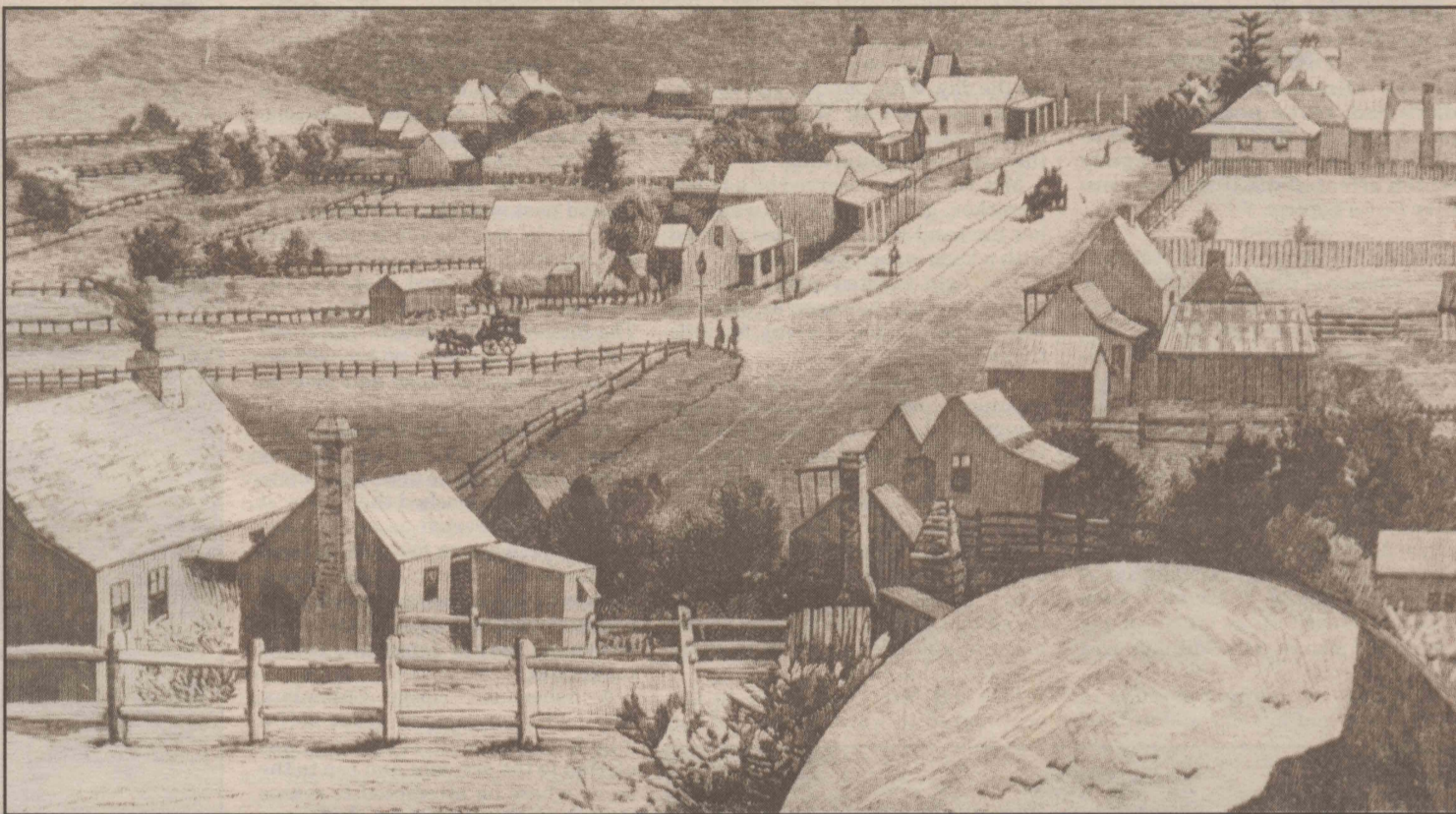
Kiama Independent
July 4, 1890

By mid-1892, however, it appears the band had lapsed as calls for made for the formation of a "public band".

"Subscriptions in aid of the movement will be thankfully received... Some eight members are ready and willing to play out in the streets of the town, but require the 'where-with-all' to purchase a drum, two or three instruments and some music. We are very sure the public will support the movement as the want of a public band has been keenly felt in Kiama for the past three years."

Kiama Independent
April 1, 1892

The rally proved successful and, in July just three months later, the Kiama Brass Town Band performed in concert at the Blowhole Point when there was an attendance of "considerably over 300 persons".



A sketch of the main streets of Gerringong - as published in the Sydney Mail in 1893. PHOTO: Ken Miller Collection.

"...A program of some 14 sacred selections was gone through and highly appreciated, the performance terminating with the sacred hymn, 'Till We Meet Again'."

Kiama Independent
July 19, 1892

Swagmen

January, 1893, opened with the news that harbour works at Lake Illawarra and Wollongong were bringing great numbers of destitute swagmen who were arriving in the hope of gaining work. Many were unsuccessful, however, and were forced to wander the district, looking for food.

"...the hotel keepers have many appeals for food. A party of six who begged in a hotel in the town the other day for bread stated that they had been unable to get work, even for 'tucker'. One of the saddest sights under the sun...is a man seeking work and unable to get it."

Kiama Independent
January 19, 1893

Omega floods

In March, 1893, the Miller family were again besieged by the elements when heavy rains left 'Miller's flats' flooded "by a vast sheet of water". Similar problems were being experienced at Jamberoo when local creeks were "much swollen". The recently built bridge over Waugh's Creek, however, had stood the test and was proving to be a "boon to travellers by that route".

The 'Labour' movement

The 'Labour' movement gained momentum in the 1890s, as was evidenced by a visit by union representatives to Kiama.

"LAST Sunday three delegates from the Labour Unions of Sydney visited the main camp on the railway works, Kiama, for the purpose of placing before the navvies the necessity for unity among them as well as all classes of labour... Inflammatory speeches against the stigmatised enemy of labour - capital - were indulged in, and the various parliamentary representatives of the South Coast held up as persons to be hurled into oblivion at the next election and supplanted by 'labour candidates'... We understand that it is intended to form an affiliated union of all trades and manual labour in the various colonies, the present being initiated in Queensland. The outcome of the visit of the delegates is that a branch of the union has been formed amongst the navvies, to which some 240 names have been pledged."

Kiama Independent
November 18, 1890

In July, 1891, the Kiama Labour Electoral League held a "preliminary" meeting at the Royal Hotel, Kiama, with 20 to 30 members in attendance. President of the League, Mr W Lawrence, was in the chair while other office holders included Senior Vice-president Mr J McEncroe; Junior Vice-president Mr Bell; Treasurer Mr H Ryan; and Secretary Mr P Farquarson.

The Phonograph

In May, 1891, Kiama was treated to a musical first when a "wonderful invention", the phonograph, was exhibited in the Oddfellows' Hall. Note also, from the following item, the origins of the word "factory".

"...The first part of the entertainment consisted of an interesting lecture on the phonograph, illustrated by splendid lantern views, by which the wave theory of sound and all the various parts of the instrument were fully explained to the audience. The present phonograph, of 'talking machine', was perfected some two years ago by Thomas Edison of New York, and nine months or so ago two of them were sent to Australia, and since then have been exhibited almost throughout the colonies. The phonograph, which is only a small instrument, consists of 337 parts, each part being made by machinery invented by Mr Edison, who employs at his large manufactory, 250 men, women and children... The portion of the phonograph receiving the sound impression is constructed on a plan exactly similar to that of the human ear, the drum being represented by a glass chamber, and the wave sounds striking the end of this glass drum causing it to vibrate... On Friday Mr AG Russell sang a song into the phonograph as did Mr Prout on Saturday evening; Mr A Acheson played a cornet solo. In each instance they were reproduced by the phonograph very distinctly. The songs had a kind of metallic sound, which was no doubt due to the sound being conveyed from the phonograph to the audience through a large, brass funnel... The performance concluded by the wonderful playing of the Australian National Anthem."

Kiama Independent
May 12, 1891

Foxground Social

In March, 1893, a social for the young folk of Foxground was held at the home of Mr Dawson Blow.

"...The room being large afforded those who indulged in the innocent amusement every opportunity of dancing with comfort. Songs were rendered at intervals by Mr Alick Speer, 'The Old Man's Drunk Again', Mr W Winter, 'My Son Teddy'; Mr B Connors, 'Hush-a-bye Baby'; Messrs Kerwick and Roots danced the Irish jig in a most graceful style. Mr F Fredericks and Mr J Devery fulfilled the duties of MCs."

Kiama Independent
March 30, 1893

Driving Without Lights

In the spring of 1893, local businesses witnessed a rush on the sale of kerosene lamps and candles when the Mayor, MN Hindmarsh, announced that travellers who drove at night "without lights" would be prosecuted.

"DRIVING WITHOUT LIGHTS - The intention of the Mayor to prosecute those persons offending in the direction

of driving without lights is a step in the right direction. The old adage that 'it is an ill wind that blows nobody good' will be verified by the consumption of candles and kerosene as a result of this action."

Kiama Independent
July 14, 1894

Evils of over-dressing

"THE EVILS OF OVERDRESSING - Of all the snares that beset young girls, none are more dangerous than the love of dress. Mothers should be on the alert to guard their daughters against it. Elder sisters should not forget that young eyes are looking at them as examples... Nothing is of greater importance than the companionship permitted to young girls. Not only overdressed companions induce the wish to themselves to overdress, but if the gratification is denied, 'covetousness, envy, hatred and all uncharitableness' are very likely to find birth in hearts that might be otherwise full of better feelings... Even in very young children the passion for overdressing is seen. It is the fault of the silly mothers. Little girls'... skirts are covered with quantities of ornaments, trimmings, frills and double skirts. Their feet are encased in the most costly boots and their ankles dislocated with high heels. The hats they wear are in accordance with the rest of their toilette, and even padding and hair dye are not unfrequently used."

Sunday Press, New York, August 1873

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Innocence lost with 18

ON Boxing Day, 1893, a boating party comprising eight people from three prominent Kiama families set off for a day's leisure on the Minnamurra River. By day's end, seven people had perished and the district was left to pick up the pieces of a tragedy which affected not just a community but a colony.

*** **

With the festivities and religious observations of Christmas Day, 1893, over, the Kiama community woke to a pleasant morning on Boxing Day, bristling with plans for family get-togethers as was a traditional hallmark of that day.

The members of three Kiama families - Captain Thomas Honey, aged 46, and wife Elizabeth of Riversdale, George Wood 38, wife Mary and their three children George Henry 11, Eliza Jane 9, and Elsie May 7, of Clover Hill, and Mrs Wood's sister Charlotte Pike 53, of Kiama - were especially excited as their plans included a picnic on the Minnamurra River.

The party set out mid-morning in their horse and buggies and arrived

at the river where they enjoyed a luncheon. With the food consumed, the party took to the river in a flat-bottomed boat which had been hired for the day. With Captain Honey taking an oar, and Mr Wood a shorter, broken oar, the boat was guided up the river before returning.

Mrs Wood was observed by a fellow picnicker, gayly splashing water at her husband who responded in kind with a keen splash from his oar.

The light-hearted play suddenly turned to peril, however, as the boat was pulled by the current towards the ocean.

On approaching the river's entrance, off a sandspit near Rangoon Island, the boat drifted into breakers. The vessel became unmanageable and was quickly engulfed by waves. In the panic that prevailed, a large wave washed Miss Pike from the boat, followed by the three children. Mr Wood dove in, in a gallant effort to save his youngsters, followed by Captain Honey who seized his wife and tried to swim to shore with her in his arms.

This left Mrs Wood alone in the boat, forced to watch as each of the

party progressed into various stages of drowning. At one point Miss Pike drifted near the boat but Mrs Wood was unable to reach her. She spoke to her on several occasions, asking if she was alive, and Miss Pike signalled that she was.

To Mrs Wood's great horror, the bodies of her two daughters then floated past with their father in pursuit, but he was unable to go further and headed towards the shore.

Mrs Wood managed to stay in the boat as it drifted out to sea and, as *The Reporter* later noted, "Pen could not describe the state of her feelings at seeing those so near and dear to her perish".

At the time of the tragedy, races were being held at the nearby Eureka Race Course and, when news of the accident reached the course, it was almost deserted as a stampede of men and boys, on foot and on horses, made their way to the scene. Within minutes a score of young men had stripped and dove in the river, struggling with a dangerous tide to render aid.

A fisherman, Harry Calambus, who had been camped about half a mile from the mouth of the river, was alerted to the accident and ran to the scene where he attempted to rescue the drowning victims but was washed back each time. Seeing that he could do nothing, he returned to his camp, got into his own boat and rowed down the river.

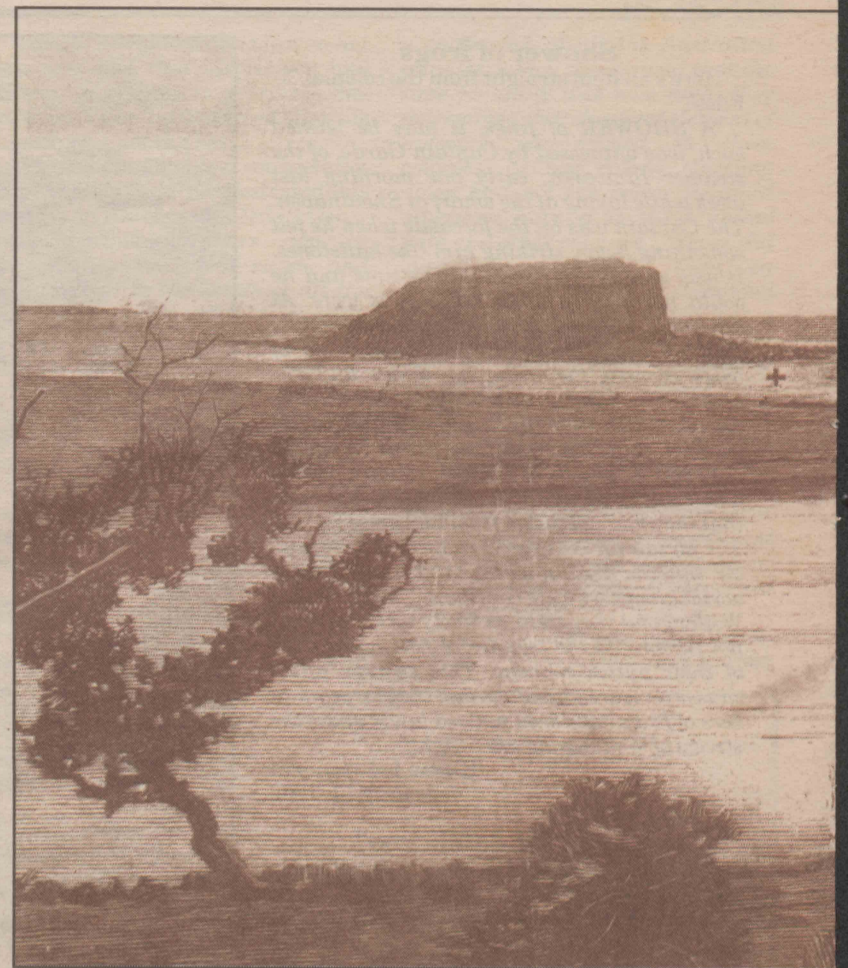
Before reaching the breakers, Harry was joined by two comrades, Bill Campbell and Jim Walker. The three men then recovering the bodies of Eliza Jane and Elsie May Wood and Miss Pike before coming to the rescue of Mrs Wood. One can only imagine the distress of this woman as she was rowed to safety in the same tiny vessel as her two deceased daughters and beloved sister.

The bodies of Captain and Mrs Honey and young Henry Wood, meantime, could not be located.

Mr Wood was noticed barely alive and struggling some distance from the shore and two young men, Richard Fadden - a Kiama farmer - and Edward Seymour, went to his rescue among the breakers. Mr Wood pleaded with them, "Keep my head up". But the current proved too strong and they were forced to leave him. Five men - Edward Seymour, David Graham, W Evans, W Ible and John Roberts - then returned to the water and retrieved his body.

Dr Read checked the man's heart and heard "only a faint flutter. He then used every possible remedy for restoring life and breathed down the nostrils in the hope of trying to inflate the lungs but all to no avail".

Artificial respiration was contin-



Scene of the boating fatality at the mouth of the Minnamurra River on Rangoon Island marks the site of the tragedy, where the vessel was



George Wood jun, wife Mary and children George Henry, Eliza Jane, Elsie May and Florence (standing back). All members of the family, except Mrs Wood and Florence, drowned in the Boxing Day tragedy.

ued for the next hour but Mr Wood could not be resuscitated.

The four bodies of the deceased were carried across the beach to the river's bank, where they were placed in two waiting boats and conveyed to the opposite bank, which was, by this time, lined with hundreds of spectators who watched "with tearful eyes the bodies being removed from the boats and gently placed side by side on the green bank". Shortly after, the bodies were conveyed to the home of the late Miss Pike, in Kiama.

A great search, covering an area from Bass Point to Jervis Bay, was launched to recover the missing bodies, but to no avail.

It caused the rescue party to fear the missing had been devoured by sharks as six had been seen circling the accident scene. Another possibility was that the bodies had been carried by the current into the various caves that existed at the foot of Rangoon Island.

It was stated at the time that while Captain Honey was an excellent swimmer, he would never have left his wife and so perished in his efforts to keep her afloat.

Magisterial Inquiry

A Magisterial inquiry was held into the deaths a day after the tragedy when Mrs Wood and members of the rescue party outlined the events of the day. At the hearing, Mr Calambus told the coroner that he had known the scene of the tragedy to be a dangerous one for the past 10 years, adding that a strong tide was running on the day of the accident.

In giving his verdict, the coroner said that it appeared to him the drownings were "purely an accident" and that "everything possible had been done to restore life, and that all the men who had helped deserved every praise for trying to restore life in the manner they had done". He found that George Wood, Eliza Jane Wood, Elsie May Wood and Charlotte Pike came to their death "through the upsetting of a boat at the mouth of the Minnamurra River on Tuesday, December 26; the result of an accident".

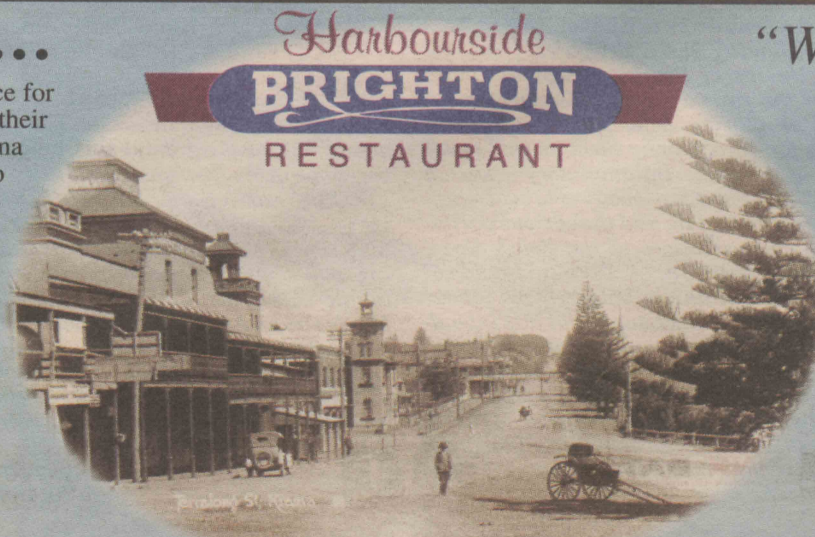
In its edition of January 2, 1894, the *Kiama Independent* reported that when all hope was lost of finding the remaining bodies, explosives (dynamite shots) were used over the

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.



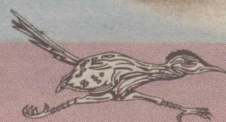
Terralong Street, Kiama
Opposite Kiama Harbour 4232 2799



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

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

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



EARLY BIRD SPECIAL RETURNS

The extremely popular Early Bird special is here for the winter. Order between 5pm and 7pm Monday to Friday to enjoy a two-course dinner for only \$18.00 incl. GST - a saving of \$7.

1893 drowning tragedy



Drowning Day 1893, as sketched for the Sydney Mail (6/1/1894). The cross was used in order to discover the remains of these three who were ushered into such a premature watery grave, and although the sea bed in the vicinity has been much shaken by the use of explosives and the most diligent search made no trace whatever can be found. The distress occasioned by the terrible disaster has by no means subsided and most anxious queries are being almost momentarily made respecting the operations of the search party. The greatest possible sympathy is manifested locally for those afflicted and affected by the accident, which has deprived three children of both their parents, and left a widow and one daughter in a house bereft of a breadwinner."

Following seven days in the hope of dislodging the bodies from the ocean floor.

"THAT LATE DROWNING CATASTROPHY... Every device has been used in order to discover the remains of these three who were ushered into such a premature watery grave, and although the sea bed in the vicinity has been much shaken by the use of explosives and the most diligent search made no trace whatever can be found. The distress occasioned by the terrible disaster has by no means subsided and most anxious queries are being almost momentarily made respecting the operations of the search party. The greatest possible sympathy is manifested locally for those afflicted and affected by the accident, which has deprived three children of both their parents, and left a widow and one daughter in a house bereft of a breadwinner."

Needless to say, the tragedy cast a blanket of gloom over the district and the circumstances of the catastrophe formed the subject of special reference from the pulpits of the various churches. The ministers of all denominations were "especially

earnest in their appeals for divine comfort to those whose hearts have been wrung with anguish in consequence of the awful calamity" (Kiama Independent).

In Sydney, meantime, the Union Jack at the Victoria Barracks, Paddington, was flown at half-mast out of respect to the memory of Captain Honey who, at the time of his death, was commander of the Kiama Company of the 2nd Infantry Regiment.

Captain Honey was first appointed to position in the military forces in December, 1883, when he was gazetted first Lieutenant of the Kiama Company of the 2nd Regiment. On March 9, 1885, he was promoted to the rank of Captain with the command of his company. He was a most efficient officer and further promotion was contemplated. In rifle shooting, he took a great interest, and in everything to the welfare of his company. According to the *Sydney Mail*, he was considered to be an "able, genial and courteous officer". Testimony to his esteem, Major-General Hutton sent a message of condolence to the Company which

Captain Honey commanded following his passing.

Captain Honey was also an active member of the Kiama Agricultural Society and the elder brother of another prominent Kiama citizen and Company member, Lieutenant Henry Honey, who had distinguished himself at the recent NSW Rifle Association as champion in the grand aggregate.

Shortly before Captain Honey's death, he had been appointed to the position of Kiama district coroner.

Mr Wood was the son of a prominent Kiama and Jamberoo property owner, George Wood Sen, who owned numerous shops as well as 640 acres on Jamberoo Mountain. George was one of the promoters of the Kiama Pioneer Dairy Factory and had given two acres from the land he leased from John Honey for the erection of the factory. He was also an original director of the co-op.

Miss Pike was the eldest of three daughters to respected civic leader, John Pike, and had, in 1881, laid the foundation stone for the Anglican Sunday School Hall.

The Funerals

The funeral of Miss Pike, Mr Wood and his two daughters was held on December 27, 1893. The coffins were placed in two hearses, Mr Wood and his girls in one and Miss Pike in the other.

"...All being ready, the members of the Protestant Alliance Benefit Society, to the number of 60, formed in front two deep... Then followed the two hearses, alongside of which walked 22 children with wreaths and other floral designs... Following the hearses were the brothers and intimate relations of the deceased on foot, the first vehicle to follow containing Messrs G Wood sen, and John Honey sen."

The Reporter January 10, 1894

It was estimated that not less than 1000 people took part in the procession which wended its way from the Collins Street cutting to Pikes cutting and on to Porters Garden Beach Cemetery where another 500 people were waiting. Mr Wood and his two children were placed in the one grave while Miss Pike was buried alongside her brother and nieces.

The search was continued for the three missing and, on January 3, the body of Mrs Honey was spotted by an aboriginal, Jim Walker, floating on the surface of the water, about 100 yards from the scene of the tragedy. It was watched until it drifted a few yards from shore, when a man named Walter Meredith landed it on the beach.

As if the drownings were not tragic enough, the description of Mrs

Honey was heartwrenching. The lady was found to be "in a good state of preservation", but her arms were "bent forward, and the fingers clenched, bearing evidence to the fact that Mrs Honey had disappeared below the surface and died in the embrace of her husband" (Kiama Independent).

It was speculated that the explosives had released Mrs Honey from the hold of her husband. Her body was delivered to the residence of the late Miss Pike where it was "coffined" and placed in a room "specially set aside for the purpose". She was buried a short time later.

A search was kept up for the bodies of Captain Honey and Henry Wood but they were never found.

Memorial Service

A special memorial service in memory of the late Captain Honey was conducted in the Oddfellows Hall on January 7, when a special train was organised to bring mourners from Sydney, including officers and volunteers of all military arms and the Regimental Band of the 2nd Infantry Regiment, of which the deceased was a popular member. Along the journey, the train collected members of the Artillery and the Illawarra Light Horse. Mr Fuller, MP, was also among the mourners.

The whole of the men (wearing bands of mourning on their left arms), the Kiama Company being represented in full force, paraded on Church Point, and headed by the Regimental Band playing the *Funeral March*, proceeded through the town via Bong Bong, Manning and Terralong Streets.

Over 1000 people were seated in the hall, including members of the united choirs of the churches, the Kiama Company and relatives of the deceased, while many more waited outside. Various hymns were sung including, *Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow*, *Art Thou Weary*, *Art thou Languid*, *Jesus, Lover of My Soul*, and *Oh Come All Ye Faithful*, *Joyful and Triumphant*.

The Rev J Howell Price, of St Saviour's Church, Sydney, delivered "an impressive and feeling sermon" (The Reporter, 10/1/94), before the Band played *The Dead March*.

Following the service the Companies again paraded in front of the hall before marching back to the parade ground, headed by the band and "an immense throng of residents".

Mr GW Fuller then addressed the gathering, saying that, through the death of Captain Honey, he had lost "one of his best and truest friends". As Commander of the Kiama Company and in his public capacity, he had always acted "sincerely, honestly and



Captain Thomas Honey.

to the best of his ability".

"...His last action, when the grim hand of death appeared, he so heroically remained at his post and endeavoured to save his dear wife."

The Reporter January 10, 1894

In July 1894, members of the Kiama Corps, Volunteer Infantry, resolved to erect a mural tablet in Christ Church to "perpetuate the memory of their late Captain".

A life of tragedy

The story was not without further tragedy for Mrs Wood. Her only surviving child, Florence, never recovered from the shock of the events and died a few months after contracting pneumonia.

Mrs Wood moved from Clover Hill to live for 25 years at *Bellevue*, a home located on the northern corner of Collins and Minnamurra Streets, Kiama, and which today serves as a guest house. Each Christmas after the death of her husband and children, Mrs Wood would lock herself in her home and see no-one until after the festivities were over.

She erected a stained glass window in Christ Church in memory of George and her three children and gave the church a brass alms dish, offertory plates and the silver shield in the church board room. She died on September 8, 1932, finally being released from her years of heartache.

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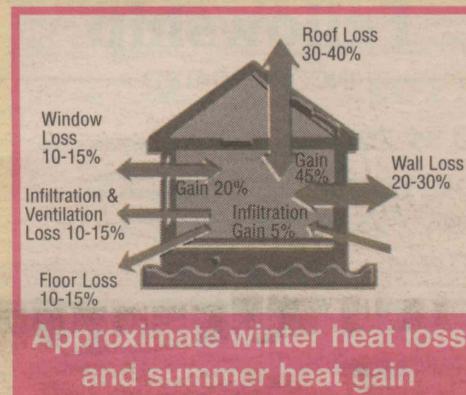
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'Father of Federation' visits

In December, 1891, the Oddfellows Hall was packed to capacity to hear a speech delivered by Australia's 'Father of Federation', Sir Henry Parkes, speak on the nation's march toward Federation.

Sir Henry, a veteran statesman and former Member for Kiama (1864 to 1870), was concentrating his energies on moves toward Federation and Australia's recognition on the world stage as a united nation in its own right.

He had arrived by midday train in the company of his wife, Lady Parkes, and MPs P Morton and GW Fuller. He was met by the Mayor, W Cocks Esq, and several aldermen, before being escorted to the Grand Hotel where the ministerial party stayed throughout their visit.

At the Oddfellows Hall meeting the chairman, Mayor Cocks, commented on Sir Henry's political performance and his role in "bringing

into force the Public Schools Act, which was a boon to the people of this colony and for which he deserved the esteem of its people".

Sir Parkes, a former resident of Kiama, thanked the audience for its loyalty, saying that he held a special fondness for the town, especially as it had "elected him at least five times by a majority of two to one".

Arriving at the heart of the matter, Sir Parkes spoke of his work in initiating the Federation movement, and of the falling out he'd had with another Federationist, Mr Edmund Barton (later Australia's first Prime Minister).

The source of the conflict - and indeed a major sore point in the march toward Federation - was the push by some (the "Protectionists") to introduce duties on intercolonial products as opposed to the call by others, including Sir Parkes (the "Free Traders"), to have free trade between the colonies.

Sir Parkes saw the duties as being inhibitive to the cause of Federation - which was colonial unity.

On this count, he said he believed Mr Barton to be of the same opinion, saying that the gentleman appeared to him to "take the broadest and noblest and most statesman-like views on the question".

But the two men had a falling out, however, when Mr Barton aligned himself with the Premier, Mr George Dibbs, and politician Thomas Slattery, two Protectionists who were "bitter enemies to federation". Sir Parkes suggested that Mr Barton's new affiliation was part of his political aspiration to join Mr Dibbs' ministry.

Sir Parkes also took issue at a public submission by Mr Barton that Sir Parkes had, due to ill health, handed over the reins of the Federation movement to himself.

Sir Parkes said that this was not the case and that Mr Barton had taken liberties from a private discussion when he admitted that his health was not the best.

Having clarified the controversy, Sir Parkes then concentrated his speech on the cause for federation.

"...Some three years ago he brought up his grand cause, and suggested it to the heads of all the governments in the Australian colonies, with the purpose of ascertaining whether the time had not arrived for these colonies to form a constitution together as one Australian nation. He had two classes of difficulties to contend with. There were those who could not rise to so great a measure, and others who were opposed to it from motives of party animosity towards himself. They were disposed to raise themselves against anything he might do for the good of the cause... He had succeeded in bringing about

a conference of all the Australian colonies, which determined that the time for unity was now nigh; they determined that the great element of national life existed in these colonies, as one colony standing alone had not the power it would otherwise have if it stood united with the other colonies... Never did such an assemblage meet on Australian soil. They had succeeded in drawing up a Bill which was a more demonstrative and eloquent one to them than (America's) Declaration of Independence... Sir Parkes said that federation of the Australian colonies was a work which no earthly power could long retard. It would rise supreme above all obstacles, and in a short time, place them in a field of power and authority, and be on a level in honor with all other nations of the world (Loud applause)."

Kiama Independent
December 8, 1891

Charming advertising

A delightful aspect of the colonial newspapers was the way various advertisements, published amid the local news items, had a way of taking the reader by surprise.

"A WELL-dressed little woman, charged the other day with assault on her husband (a man 14st weight), by knocking him down with a poker and jumping on him, when asked to plead said, 'Justified, your Worship, and I'll mangle him if he don't buy me a bag of Enderby's good potatoes; 4s 6d cwt. cash'. - Advert."

Kiama Independent, August 16, 1892

KIAMA SPORTS & LEISURE WEAR

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



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

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The first Minnamurra Bridge - a timber, one-lane thoroughfare built in 1870 by Shellharbour Council at a cost of £1000.

Minnamurra Bridge

The history of the Minnamurra Bridge was not overly spelled out in the *Independent* over the years but we do know that the first bridge - a one-lane timber structure - was built in 1870. This bridge fell into disrepair, however, and within 20 years it became apparent that a new, more modern structure was required and, in April, 1890, tenders were called for the project.

The driving of the first pile of the new Minnamurra Bridge was marked in

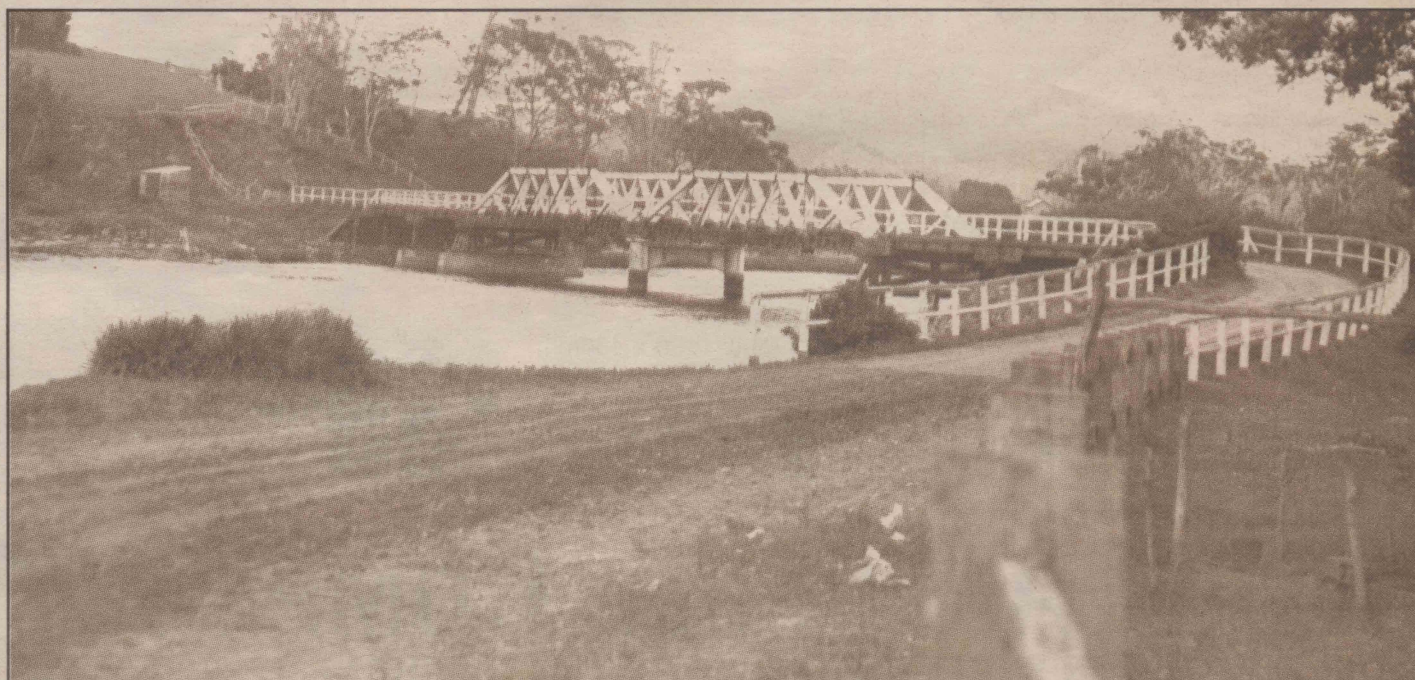
September, 1891, with a picnic on Minnamurra River which was attended by 50 to 60 persons.

"A very pleasant afternoon was spent at the Minnamurra River... The ceremony was performed by Mrs George Tory, of Kiama, and after that lady had driven the pole a certain distance, and christened it with a bottle of 'golden top', and adjournment was made and some refreshments partaken of. The health of the contractor, Mr Reid, coupled with that of Mr and Mrs Tory, was

drunk in bumpers, and responded to by Mr Reid...

...there are two concrete foundations in connection with the bridge, both being at the northern end, and the bridge will rest on piles for the remainder of the distance. The piles are sheathed with copper above the high water mark, and are being driven down some eight or 10 feet by a 'monkey', weighing slightly over a ton."

Kiama Independent
September 23, 1891



The second Minnamurra Bridge, a one-lane, timber structure built in 1890 by Kiama Municipal Council.

WELCOME TO Kiama Christian Fellowship INCORPORATED



A CROSSLINK AUSTRALIA NETWORK CHURCH

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

We are a Family Church

PASTOR: JON WRIGHT

PO Box 82, Kiama 2533 Ph/Fax 4237 5254

Sport and Leisure

Rollerskating

Rollerskating, already a popular pastime in Kiama, grew from strength to strength in June, 1890, when the Kiama Select Skating Rink was opened on Thursday afternoons.

Entertainment was provided the same month by Holts Musical Comedy Company which performed a "laughable and musical comedy 'Fun on the Bristol'".

"...The principal character in the piece is 'Widow O'Brien', which was sustained by Mr Martyn Hagan in a manner which proved that he has made a special study of, and is conversant with the peculiar characteristics which some of the 'shoots of the green isle' are afflicted. His acting of the character was as near to real life as it is possible to have such a thing and throughout the whole piece he kept the audience fairly convulsed with laughter."

Kiama Independent
June 13, 1890

If one was to actually form a picture of the entertainment available during the Victorian era, the following act would come close to expectations.

Human 'amphibians'

"THE BEAUMONT FAMILY - Not often of late has Kiama been visited by a company of amusers bearing such a high reputation as that of the Beaumont Family, who will occupy the Oddfellows Hall on Monday and Tuesday evenings next. Professor Beaumont, the human amphibian, Miss Lily and little Alice the mermaids, will give their celebrated aquatic performance, in a crystal tank specially fitted up for the occasion. This family, in their exhibitions with Fillis' Circus in Sydney, were very highly spoken of by the great Australian dailies and the last named young lady was arrested by a London detective while in the act of giving a public exhibition by diving off London bridge. Professor Beaumont, besides breaking the record under water, picks up something like 60 coins with his mouth from the bottom of the tank and smokes a cigar under water."

Kiama Independent
February 17, 1894

Kiama Lawn Tennis Club

From what we can ascertain, the Kiama Lawn Tennis Club was established by 1890 with a good local following. Shortly after its formation, it sought permission from Kiama Council to lay out a set of tennis courts in the large excavation located at Blowhole Point, the site being seen as ideal as it was sheltered from both the north-east and southerly winds.

Council agreed to lease the site for a rental fee of £1 per year. On reaching this agreement, however, it was discovered that the site had not been dedicated to the borough at the time other local reserves were so treated. Consequently, the arrangement with the tennis club was nullified.

The club then made a direct approach to the Government for use of the site and, in August 1892, achieved their goal.

"We are now pleased to be able to state that the Lawn Tennis Club is in possession of two A1 clay courts in the sheltered situation. The ground, as a protection from stock, has been fenced with a 5 wire fence, with sawn posts, seats have been erected and a pavilion and other improvements are contemplated when the funds permit. The present improvements have cost about £20. The numbers in all 58 members, of which 41 are playing members."

Kiama Independent
August 16, 1892

Kiama Swimming Club

With the new Kiama Public Bath opened at the foot of Blowhole Point, swimming took on a whole new popularity, as was evidenced in November, 1893, when a meeting was held to establish the "Kiama Swimming Club". Within the month membership of the new club had risen to 60.

The club's first swimming carnival was held in February, 1894, amid great community interest. The business people of the town "rendered good service" to the event, closing their respective establishments to ensure a healthy attendance at the pool.

Extensions and alterations to the Kiama Public Bath, which began in 1888, were not reported as being fully completed until December, 1893, but it was apparently worth the wait. The pool was regarded as one of the finest in the colony, and featured spring boards and a patented "sluice valve" which



A popular pastime for our colonials was to enjoy a picnic with family and friends at any one of the area's picturesque locations including Minnamurra River, Kendall's Beach, Minnamurra Falls and Seven Mile Beach, Gerringong.

had been locally designed and manufactured.

"...The contractors have stuck manfully to their task despite adversity, and as the outcome of their labours, under the supervision of Alderman Wells, a salt water bath has been provided which, we venture to say, is unequalled in any other town in the colony. The bath is provided with a sluice valve, designed by Alderman Wells, and spring boards are to be erected without delay. The official opening ceremony in connection with the swimming club will be performed on January 1 by GW Fuller, Esq, MLA."

Kiama Independent
December 14, 1893

Meantime, a scandal was erupting at the ladies' swimming bath when an "unprincipled cad" took to openly watching the ladies as they enjoyed their afternoon dip. The following reprimand demonstrates the chaste attitude of the Victorian era. In our previous supplement we reported efforts to establish a ladies' bath at Church Point. The location of the bath referred to below was described as 'lately constructed', suggesting it was not the bath located at the bottom of Pheasant Point.

"AN UNPRINCIPLED CAD - It is seldom we are called upon to denounce a resident of Kiama for such contemptuous and indecent conduct, combined with a want of respectability, as that which has been brought under our notice by a number of influential lady residents of our town. It is well known to every townsman that the ladies patronise the bath lately constructed for their use, and anyone of the sterner sex worthy the name of a man, would scorn to thrust his presence upon their privacy when engaged in a refreshing afternoon dip. Still we find that one - a well-known and supposed respectable married man - has proved himself so obnoxious and contemptible to the ladies bathing at the place named one evening this week that he has only again to repeat such degrading conduct to ensure his deserts at the hands of a gathering of respectable and modest, yet enraged female residents of Kiama. The person referred to, on the evening in question, so far outraged decency as to walk along and stand near the bath while in the occupation of females and, despite the remonstrances of those who had not placed themselves in the uncomfortable position of being undressed, positively declined to leave the place, criticising the right of the ladies, or

any section of the community, to the place in question... It is a matter of regret that if the police cannot interfere in cases of this kind and, in the interests of common decency, protect the lady inhabitants of the town from the interference of persons so deficient in refinement and gallantry."

Kiama Indep, Dec 14, 1893

ANTHONY Hordern & Sons

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Sheets,

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KI, November 20, 1891

Dancer burnt in horrific fire

The following article depicts the horrifying spectacle of a young ballet performer who caught fire after coming into contact with a gas light during a performance at the Victoria Theatre, Sydney, on December 30, 1872. "BALLET GIRL BURNT AT THE VICTORIA THEATRE - About a quarter past 10 o'clock last night during a transformation scene in the pantomime at the Victoria Theatre, while a ballet girl named Fanny Osborne, a daughter of the theatre keeper, was descending from a pedestal on which she had been elevated, her dress, which was of the usual gauzy material, came in contact with one of the lights, and she was quickly enveloped by flames. There being a large number of persons connected with the theatre on the stage at the time of the occurrence, the flames were quickly smothered, but not before the girl was severely, though it is believed not dangerously burnt. A general consternation seized the audience, and numbers rushed to the doors to gain the street, but fortunately the panic was soon subdued by the reassuring intelligence that the fire had been extinguished before the scenery had caught..."

In the following edition, of January 9, 1873, the Kiama Independent reported that the little girl had "...died at the Sydney Infirmary on January 2".

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SKY CHANNEL

ATM

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Education & Religion

EDUCATION

St Joseph's Catholic School

The Kiama district's first Roman Catholic (and denominational) school was established in a timber church built at Jamberoo in 1839.

In 1887, with the Jamberoo population remaining static and Kiama's population surging ahead as a result of the quarrying and commercial boom, the Sisters of St Joseph relocated their convent and school to St Peters Catholic Church in Manning Street, Kiama (today's Ss Peter and Paul Church and school).

In December, 1890, the school held a Christmas concert which included entertainment "of a most enjoyable nature".

The *Independent* noted that the concert broke a drought in local entertainment. Until recently, the public had to rely upon the Debating Society for their evenings' amusement, but even this outlet fell by the wayside when members of the Society began dedicating themselves to "more solid, if less popular work".

"CHILDREN'S CONCERT... the public have been left without anything in the way of entertainments for some considerable time; so when the opportunity offered itself, they showed their appreciation of the proffered amusement by according the promoters a crowded house. The performance reflected the highest credit both on the pupils and their instructors who must have devoted great attention to the ones entrusted to them to produce such a meritorious performance. Miss Staunton contributed materially to the success of the entertainment by her admirable accompanying on the piano. Several of the singers thoroughly deserved the encores afforded them, while Master Fred O'Toole's excellent reciting is worthy of all praise. The following program was gone through:- children's chorus, 'Advance Australia Fair'; solo, 'Friend of My Youth', Miss K Goodwin; recitation, 'The Curfew Ball', Miss Mary Duggan;



Kiama's St Peter's Catholic Church which was built in 1858 and served until 1964 when it was replaced by the Ss Peter and Paul Church.

'Flower Girls', Misses Duggan, Morgan, Goodwin and Adams; solo, 'Kerry Dance', Miss A Cronan."

Kiama Independent
December 23, 1890

Kiama Public School

In December, 1892, "extensive erections and alterations" were begun at the ever-expanding Kiama Public School by Sydney contractor, Mr Quiggin.

These extensions would have taken into account the fact that the school's original frontage - which faced on to today's Hindmarsh Park - had been obscured by the incoming railway line.

"...Immediately in front of the old school building and elegant structure is being raised composed of bluestone and freestone - which for appearance - will be second to none in the colony... on the ground and second floors will be located three large classrooms, each with lobby and stairway at the northern end, and a porch at the south side. The second storey will be divided from the rooms beneath by a floor laid with concrete, to prevent the egress and ingress of sounds from the students at study in the different heights... the rooms will be divided from each other by glass partitions, and will have one window each with a lookout to the east - the front of the school... The alterations made consist of a corrugated iron roof, which has been placed on the old building, and the erection of a guard fence around the embankment on the northern and western side of the Infant department. The northern wing of the old building, formerly used as a lobby, is to be partitioned off as a teachers' room, an entrance being cut through the same to form a passage from the new building to the verandah."

Kiama Independent
December 6, 1892

The finished works were judged as being so splendid that, in April the following year, a public meeting was held in the Kiama Council Chamber for the purpose of recognising the work of the Department of Public Instruction in "erecting a handsome and commodious school building, which is not only a convenience, but a feature of beauty to the town".

RELIGION

In October, 1891, an epidemic of influenza was such that the Kiama Presbyterian Sabbath School was forced to postpone its annual picnic. The picnic was held in February the following year on the Blowhole Point. "... about 200 children partook of the dainties provided, and over 100 adults. The tables were presided over by the Misses Fuller, Colley, Pickeman and

Robb, and Mesdames Morrison, Arnold and Burgess... The young folks spent the afternoon in all sorts of games; but the most interesting was the footracing. Some of the gentlemen pre-

sent gave sums of money for prizes to the winners. Consequently the events were well contested."

Kiama Independent

Agriculture

Dairy community rocked by TB claims

In November 1890, having come so far to establish itself as the leading producer of dairy products in the Colony, the Kiama district was rocked by a scandal which threatened to destroy its good name and even decimate the local dairy trade.

It followed the release of a controversial report in 1890 by Dr Stanley of the Board of Health who said that tuberculosis existed to a large extent in the cattle of the Kiama district, and this had affected the dairy produce being sold on the Sydney market.

The report naturally caused a panic - but largely from local producers. After nine days of newspaper reports and speculation, the principal milk vendors of the metropolis reported that demand for South Coast dairy products had in no way diminished, suggesting that the city dwellers had paid no real attention to Dr Stanley's findings.

Nevertheless, an inquiry was launched by the Dairy Farmers' Association, leaving an unfortunate stigma to hang in the air while local farmers awaited the outcome.

"...On broad public grounds, the Kiama district has, whether it was so intended or not, suffered a great injustice; this was evidenced by the feeling and resolution carried at a meeting of the Dairy Farmers' Association a short time ago, and will continue to be felt until absolute proof is furnished that the germs of tuberculosis have been found in either the butter or the milk produced in this district."

Kiama Independent
November 11, 1890

Foxground Butter Factory destroyed

On the morning of December 21, 1892, the Foxground community woke to the news that its newly-constructed butter factory had been burned to the ground in a fire. The cause of the fire was "shrouded in mystery", but it was speculated the blaze, which began around midnight, was started "by the engine fire".

The factory manager, Mr A Jarman, banked the engine fire shortly after 9pm before repairing to his home located 40 yards away. Just before midnight, he was awakened by the noise of the fire which had completely

engulfed the timber building.

"...The heat was so intense that nothing could be done to mitigate the fury of the flames, and within three hours the building was burnt to the ground. The building and plant is valued at £1800, which will mean a considerable loss to the shareholders, seeing as it was only insured for £1000, including managers' cottage and piggeries, which were not injured by the fire. The total loss is estimated at about £750."

Kiama Independent
December 23, 1892

Proving that you can't keep a tough colonial down for long, the shareholders of the company set about building a new factory immediately.

A new creamery at Foxground - built by Mr John Britain Taylor in just four weeks - was reported to be running satisfactorily. The machinery had been supplied by Tangyes Ltd, and consisted of two Alexandria separators, capable of treating 600 gallons of milk per hour, and horizontal boiler and engine, both fitted "very neatly". The new factory was being managed by Mr George Tate, late of Albion Park.

Honey

The spring of 1893 saw predictions for a good season of honey, especially after the hives of Mr Samuel Marks were inspected and were found to include 28 1lb sections full of honey. This was apparently highly unusual for that time of year.

"THE HONEY INDUSTRY... Only a patent hive would be competent to contain the same amount of these little winged workers' productions."

Kiama Independent
October 19, 1893

Crazy man's wisdom

"OUT OF PLACE - A crazy man having got into the gallery of the House of Commons during a rambling debate, was taken out, the sergeant at arms telling him that he was 'out of place in that gallery'. 'That's so,' said the lunatic, 'I ought to be on the floor with the members'."

Kiama Independent

SMOKE

TOBACCO.

SMOKE CAMERON'S MAZEPPA

Kiama Indep. December 20, 1892

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Rail extended south

Before proceeding with the progress of the Illawarra Railway line, we must clarify an aspect of Kiama's railway history. While it has long been celebrated that the line came "to" Kiama in 1888, it did not come "into" Kiama until five years later in 1893 when the link from Kiama to Nowra, and including Gerringong, was officially opened.

In our last edition we reported that the grand opening ceremony of the Sydney to Kiama extension in 1888 began at the Kiama Station when, in fact, it started at the "North Kiama" Station at Bombo and proceeded through town to the Kiama Showground.

*** **

The campaign to have the Kiama railway line extended to Nowra was approved by the Parliamentary Works Committee in March, 1890. Influencing the decision was the Shoalhaven's reputation for having the best pig-curing business in New South Wales together with an admirable harbour and coal supply. "Everything pointed to a prosperous district", according to a report submitted to the Committee.

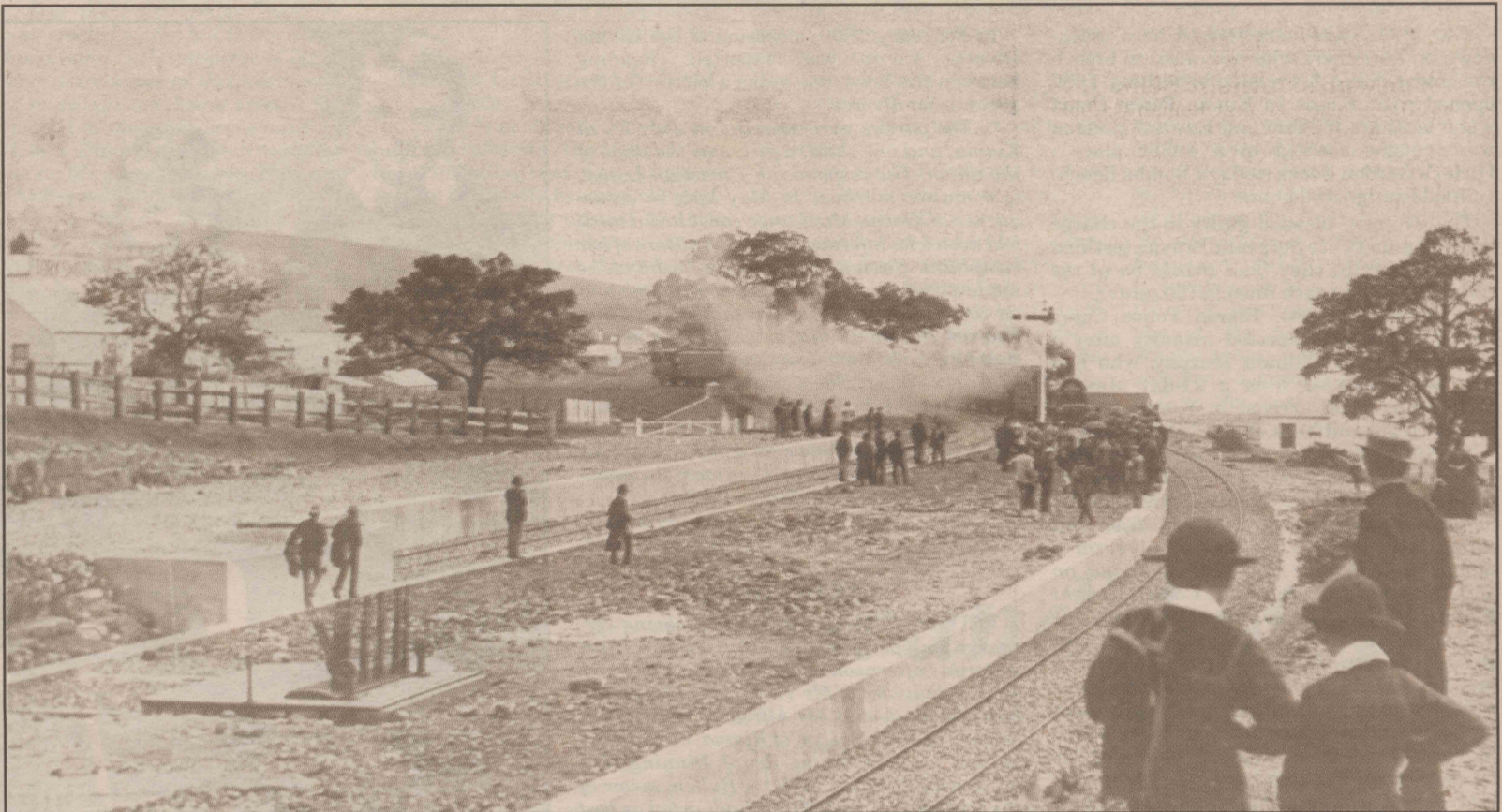
The decision was not without a degree of debate, though, with concerns that the extension would not justify the expenditure. Committee Chairman, Dr Garran, said that while he had been "staggered" by the cost of the first six miles of this line, he believed that, in the course of time, it would be "one of the best paying trunk lines". The *Kiama Independent* concurred.

"...The expense will no doubt be enormous, but the richness and beauty of the district is a sufficient set-off to that and will ensure, we believe, large and remunerative returns from the start with a constantly increasing traffic as the years go on."

Kiama Independent
March 21, 1890

The contract to build the line was let to Pritchard & Company in August, 1890, for 22 miles 73 chains of single line between North Kiama and the northern bank of the Shoalhaven River, opposite Nowra. Construction of the station buildings were provided under separate contract by Messrs Featherstone and Barber.

While the decision was made to proceed with the link, doubts continued over whether the line would be financially viable. At issue was a section 1.5 miles in length which was quoted as costing "as much as four miles and a half of ordinary road" and which included a £60,000 bridge. Negotiation of the basalt spurs of Saddleback Mountain which jutted into the sea also necessitated the construction of no less than five tunnels in as many miles



Commuters jostle as a steam train arrives at Kiama Railway Station.

(commencing from Bombo).

At A Public Works Committee meeting held in April, 1891, the Railway Commissioners asked that, "in view of the fact that the extension of the line would create but little traffic", a clause be introduced authorising traffic over the section of 1.5 miles to be charged as 4.5 miles. While one member of the Public Works Committee considered the clause to be "very clumsy and unworkable", he was outvoted and the clause was included in a list of recommendations to the Legislative Assembly.

Efforts to have a branch of the Illawarra Railway connected to Jamberoo, meantime, spilled into the 1890s when residents continued to campaign the Government for the connection. In December, 1890, the examiner for the Department of Public Works visited Jamberoo to determine "the prospects of a railway to Jamberoo from a commercial point of view". At a meeting held with the examiner, Mr Price, at Woods Hotel, the Mayor pointed out that "Jamberoo had been most unfairly treated through the railway being taken away from the centre of population".

Mr Price was assured that, if a line was fed to Jamberoo, "many new industries would be at once started such as fruit and vegetable growing, while nothing could be done with their coal mines until

they had the means of transporting the coal".

The meeting was told that three routes had been surveyed for the line - one from Kiama (estimated to cost £90,000), one on the "north side of the swamp" (£50,000), and one on the south side (£73,000).

Mr W Stewart presented statistics on the probable revenue which might come from the link: butter £300, passengers £800, stores £300, hotels, baker, wheelwrights and blacksmiths £300, pigs and other livestock £200. It was also pointed out that milk or cream would probably be sent to Sydney in place of butter if a line were constructed so that the revenue from Jamberoo would be greatly augmented.

By November, 1891, between 1700 and 1800 men were reported to be at work on the line between Kiama and Nowra and, in December, 1892, it was reported that plate-laying had reached as far as Miller's Flat, Gerringong.

"...The sleepers are cut and dressed on the southern side of Barney-street by a circular saw and mortising machine, at the estimated speed of 5000 per day."

Kiama Independent
December 6, 1892

In February, 1893, the Government announced that two iron railway bridges - one over Terralong Street Kiama, and one over the main road at Gerringong,

had been ordered from England. Tenders, meantime, had been accepted by the Railway Commissioners for the construction of station buildings between Kiama and Nowra.

"...The buildings are of the most character, yet suitable to requirements... At Kiama there will be what is termed an island station building and platform, built of brick on concrete. The general waiting room will be 22 x 14, or 24 x 11 minus porches... the total length of the building will be 108 x 14. At Bomaderry the building is to be of stud weatherboard, on concrete foundation, and will consist of general waiting room, goods shed, etc; total dimensions 50 x 11. The outside platform will be 60 x 12. At Berry and Gerringong the buildings will be similar in every way to that at Bomaderry. At Rose Valley there will be a gatekeeper's house and station building, 40 x 11. At Jaspers Brush there will be a small stud and weatherboard building, consisting of gatekeeper's cottage and waiting shed, in all 40 x 11. Toolijooa will have a platform and waiting shed, with hand signal etc, to stop the train to pick up when any necessary passengers are there."

Kiama Independent
February 18, 1893

The following month, "a large number of hands" was reported as being engaged in constructing the

new station buildings in Kiama. The buildings were completed in May, 1893, and were, according to the *Independent*, a sight to behold. Of special interest was the timber work and ornate carvings.

"THE NEW STATION - ...The building is constructed of brick, with corrugated iron roof, and gives evidence of being amply lighted by windows on both sides overlooking the line. The main portions will consist of a large and commodious waiting room, ticket office and stationmaster's apartments, with ample lavatory accommodation for both sexes... The buildings, being isolated from the main thoroughfares, will be approached from Bong Bong-street and the new road constructed by the railway authorities by a staircase connecting the southern end of the platform with a light bridge now being erected alongside the bridge crossing the line in Bong Bong-street. The latter is supported at either end by brick foundations, with wooden piles in the centre of the cutting, two of which rest on the extreme end of the platform. The woodwork of this structure has been beautifully carved. The ornamental mouldings which will be attached to the hand railing of this bridge will be very fine and costly pieces of work."

Kiama Indep, May 6, 1893

"OPENING OF THE RAILWAY Arrival of the Governor Amid Torrents of Rain"

As can be seen from the heading which featured in the *Kiama Independent*, the official opening of the Kiama to Nowra railway extension on Friday, June 2, 1893, was conducted in less than favourable circumstances, local crowds huddled under the shelter of the new Kiama Station building in their efforts to escape a deluge of rain.

But the attendance was worth the discomfort, especially as the line was to be opened by Queen Victoria's newly appointed Governor of New South Wales, Sir Robert Duff.

Sir Duff and members of his Ministry

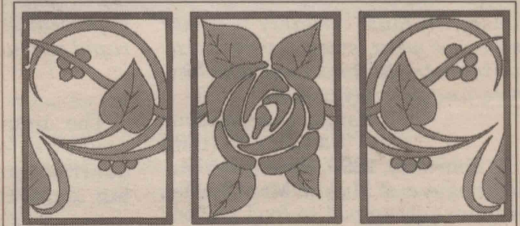
arrived at the station slightly before 11am and, on alighting, was received by a delegation consisting of Kiama Mayor, MN Hindmarsh, aldermen of Kiama and other distinguished residents of the district. The local Volunteers, meantime, gave a royal salute as the Oddfellow's Band played the National Anthem. Addresses were made in the station waiting room before the proceedings were adjourned to the Grand Hotel where a banquet luncheon for 60 was served in the drawing room.

Following the meal, speeches were made, including an address by Alderman

Wells who commended Her Majesty the Queen on appointing a "Scotchman" to the position of Governor of NSW. Aside from a lot of banter about the Queen, Governor Duff's happiness at visiting the Illawarra - the 'Garden of NSW', and everyone's delight at hosting Sir Duff, no real words of ceremony touching the opening of the railway line was uttered.

The Governor then journeyed south, by train the following day to repeat the official process in a ceremony at Bomaderry. Sadly, continued driving rains forced most of the day's festivities - including a public picnic - to be abandoned.

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Law & Order

The 1890s was characterised by a crack-down on swimmers who continued to breach the Towns Police Act related to bathing. 1890 opened with a case in Kiama Police Court when brothers William and Edward Haddon were caught bathing in a public place - Porter's Garden Beach (today's Bombo Beach) - outside designated hours.

The two men pleaded guilty to the charge while Kiama Police Sergeant Brayne testified that, thankfully, they "had trunks on at the time". They were each fined 5s (50 cents).

In February, 1890, Kiama Police Court heard a case of suspected insanity after a stranger named William Murphy, who had just been released from a 21-day stay at Wollongong gaol, arrived in Kiama on the midday train and "took charge" of the station.

"INSANITY AND ITS DELUSIONS..." Constable Coates deposed that (the prisoner) appeared to be very excited and stated that 'he had come from God to take the dead and throw them into the sea so as to prevent a plague' and that he had 'full command on both land and sea'. Constable Coates brought him into Kiama lock-up where, ever since, his language and behaviour had been very strange; he stripped himself twice at least, and turned his hat and coat inside out. He did not appear to have been drinking... John McLean, stationmaster, deposed that... he saw Murphy standing, waving his hands at the trucks and talking to himself at a great rate, and seemed to be out of his mind. He said that 'St Patrick had engaged all the trucks and was going to run them from Kiama to Wollongong until next St Patrick's Day'.

Kiama Independent
February 11, 1890

The evidence, backed by the testimony of two doctors, was enough for the court who ordered that Murphy be transferred to the Gladesville Asylum for medical treatment.

In February, 1890, a session of the Kiama Divorce Court was reported. Reading between the lines, one gains a picture of the grounds for divorce.

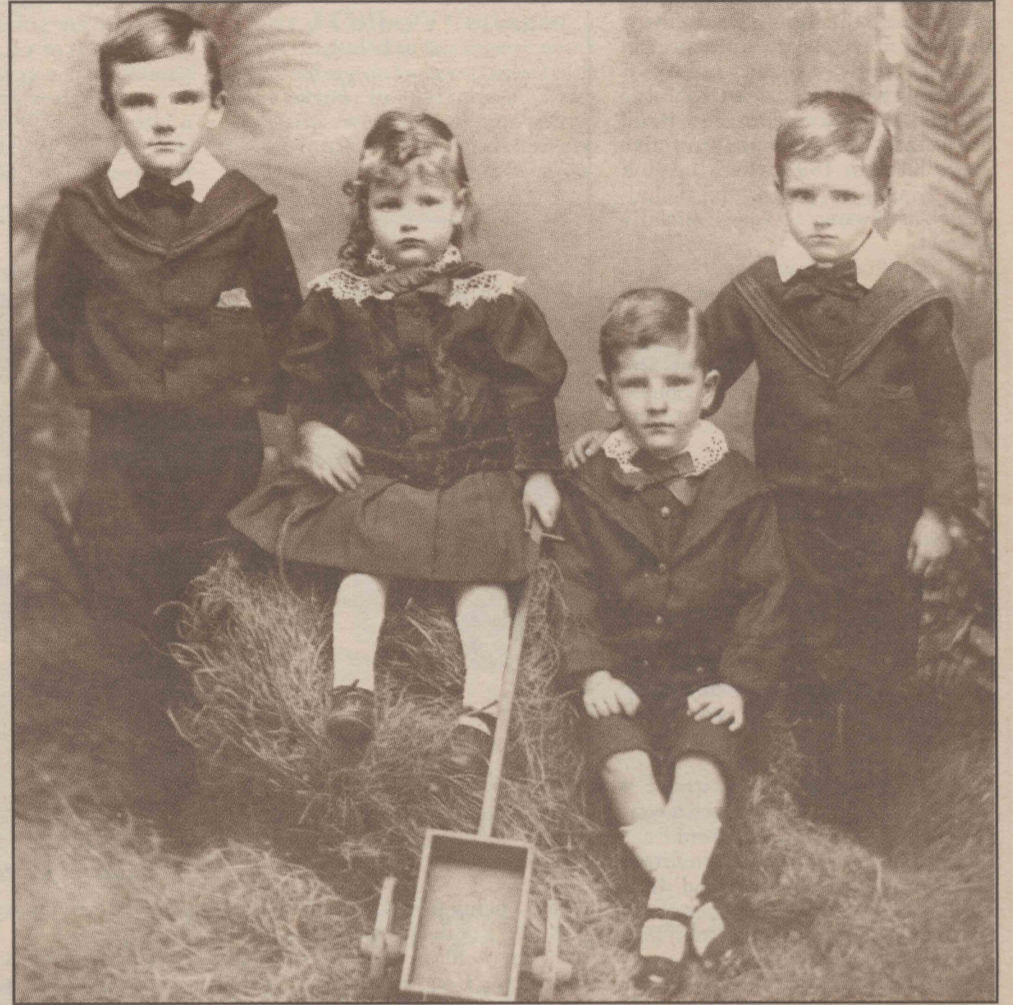
"...The parties were married on July 15, at Kiama, and one child, a girl, was the issue of the union. The respondent, Christian Lunge, is a master mariner. In May last, in consequence of illness, Mrs Lunge consulted a medical man who informed her of the nature of her complaint. Having spoken to her husband, he made a confession of his blameworthiness and on the advice of the doctor she left him and had not lived with him since. During her illness he gave her no money and left her without food or medicine. She was at the time actually dependent on her neighbours for food. Her husband has been very cruel to her at times and told her he did not care whether she lived or died... A decree nisi was granted, the mother to have the custody of the child."

Kiama Independent
February 28, 1890

WEDDING

THOMAS-BULLEN - "A very pleasing ceremony was performed at Mr G Tory's Hotel yesterday afternoon when Miss Alice Thomas, second daughter of Mr Thomas, of Monganui, New Zealand, and Mr Alfred W Bullen, second son of Mr G Bullen, of Kiama, were united in holy wedlock by the Rev J Dinning. The bride was attended by Miss Bullen, sister of the bridegroom, and Mr C Major acted as best man. The bride was attired in a becoming cornflour cashmere dress, trimmed with shot silk, while the bridesmaid looked beautiful in a dress of blue cashmere. After partaking of a hearty wedding breakfast, the happy couple left for Sydney in the 7pm train on their honeymoon tour."

Kiama Independent
July 22, 1892



These four bonny children depict the style of children's dress at the turn of the century. They are from a local family, although their identities are unknown.

Births, Deaths & Accidents

The dangers of eating tinned food - already previously documented - was raised again in 1890, when tinned fish began concerning the Colony. This was brought home in January when a Kiama woman, was poisoned.

"...Mrs Pratt throughout Tuesday night suffered from such intense pain, together with violent retching, that at about 4 o'clock in the morning it was considered advisable - and indeed absolutely necessary - to send for Dr (Caleb) Terrey. Upon his arrival he pronounced it as a case of poisoning, caused through the eating of the salmon, and ordered emetics to be administered. The greater part of Wednesday, Mrs Pratt was in great pain, and it was not until some time in the evening that she got much relief from her agony... This should be a warning to persons who indulge in such articles of diet and unless something is done to ensure perfect safety to life, the sale of tinned fish must certainly decrease and cause what is now a very lucrative industry to considerably deteriorate, and possibly vanish."

Kiama Independent
January 10, 1890

In February, 1890, the eight-year-old daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Graham succumbed to food poisoning of a different nature.

"...It appears that the little one who died was named Ada, and is spoken of as being a beautiful child and the pet and joy of the family. She had been suffering for some time past, we understand, from the very prevalent malady at present - whooping cough - but that was not the cause of her death. Somehow she came into possession of some green fruit - pears it is said - which, child-like, she ate. Afterwards she became very ill and finally succumbed to its effects."

Kiama Independent
February 7, 1890

In May, 1890, influenza "of a virulent type" was reported as being very prevalent in the district.

"The disease is very distressing and bears resemblance to the symptoms that are said to characterise the disease that has recently been raging in England and Europe."

Kiama Independent
May 13, 1890

The disease subsided only briefly, re-emerging in the winter and spring of 1891, and again in the winter of 1892 when the death of George Zellman Thompson, 18-year-old son of Alderman George Thompson, of Broughton Village, was recorded.

"...Deceased was born at Kangaroo Valley in June, 1874, and, until about six months ago when he was prostrated by an attack of influenza, had always enjoyed perfect health, but from that illness he never recovered, other ailments supervening which culminated in rapid consumption."

Kiama Independent
September 16, 1892

The number of "terrible, fatal accidents" continued at the local quarries into the 1890s. The following accident occurred when three quarry workers began drilling over an old hole in which blackpowder had not been discharged.

"YESTERDAY morning at about a quarter past eight a terrible blasting accident occurred at Bombo, by which one named Thomas Cudden lost his life and two others named George Thompson and William Daniels were seriously injured. The accident occurred in the cutting where the Government is laying down a railway siding to connect the blue metal quarry with the main or trunk line... Cudden and Thompson were drilling for what is

known as a pop shot, the former holding the drill and the latter striking it. Daniels was employed at single-handedly drilling only about five yards from the other two... Its effects were terrible, Cudden was sitting on a sleeper with the drill between his legs. He was blown between 40 and 50 feet into the air... He was picked up dead, his body being bruised and riddled in a fearful manner. His chest was completely perforated, his nose split, his legs broken... Thompson got the force of the explosion in his face and hands and was blown up against the embankment... Mr Thompson is a brother to Mrs George Tory, sen, of this town... Poor Cudden leaves a wife and child..."

Kiama Independent
November 25, 1890

Extension of the Illawarra Railway to the Shoalhaven in 1893 not only heralded a new era in local passenger carriage, it also extended the means and potential for local residents to meet an untimely, gruesome death.

The first railway death in Kiama, we believe, occurred in December, 1892, before the line was even opened, when a labourer, Martin Talty, was struck by a ballast train.

"SHOCKING ACCIDENT ON THE RAILWAY LINE..." At the time of the accident the engine, with its 16 trucks of ballast attached, was on its way to Gerringong and on nearing the No 5 tunnel was in the act of stopping in order to pick up several workmen. Deceased attempted to jump off before the train had come to a standstill, and in doing so got one foot caught between the horn-plate and one of the wheels of the truck. The engine was stopped as soon as possible and the poor fellow released

from the perilous position... he died about three hours after admittance."

Kiama Independent
December 6, 1892

No sooner had the line to Nowra been opened than another gruesome death was recorded. Under the heading "Man Cut To Pieces At Berry", the Independent related the death of Patrick Sheedy, 35, who was hit by a south-bound train near Berry. The train driver was not even aware of the death until he arrived at Bomaderry and noticed traces of blood on the break gear.

"...A search was then made along the line and about 400 yards on the southern side of Berry station the mangled body of a man was found on the line."

Kiama Independent
August 12, 1893

It was speculated that the deceased had been walking home along the railway line and did not hear the engine approach.

The line to Kiama also brought with it more than just busy commuters, it also delivered the following tragedy.

"ON Friday last one of the passengers by the down train, from Sydney to Kiama, was delivered of a prematurely born child, which she deposited at the Wollongong platform, where it was afterwards found by one of the porters. The Wollongong police, on being apprised of the circumstances, traced the mother, who is only 10 years of age, to Kiama, where she was found lying seriously ill at the Tory's Hotel. We are given to understand that a medical examination was made, which showed that drugs had been administered, and that she admitted having taken them for an unlawful purpose. On Sunday last she was attacked by influenza and her removal to the local hospital was found necessary.

As soon as she is sufficiently recovered she will have to answer for her conduct before the local Bench of Magistrates."

Kiama Independent
November 6, 1891

In 1893, the roads were still causing havoc for local residents, including Jamberoo man, John Brennan, who came a cropper in Terralong Street.

"ACCIDENT - A man named John Brennan, a resident of Jamberoo, while proceeding homeward, was thrown from his horse in Terralong-street on Tuesday evening and received a sever scalp wound."

Kiama Independent
June 1, 1893

In August, 1893, a measles epidemic was expected to hit the district, prompting the Independent to move into damage control, publishing health regulations issued by the Department of Public Instruction. The article provides us with insight into the procedures which had to be followed by school children who contracted any infectious disease. The rules were a little stringent, but necessary in the days before immunisation.

"THE MEASLES EPIDEMIC - 'Children shall not be allowed to attend the public schools until one month has elapsed from the time of their being seized with scarlet fever, measles or diphtheria, and they shall in all cases produce a certificate from a duly qualified medical practitioner to the effect that their clothing has been properly disinfected. Healthy children from a house in which any person is lying sick with any of the diseases above specified shall be excluded from school for a like period.'

Kiama Indep, August 12, 1893
Within the month, a nation-wide measles epidemic forced the closure of several public schools.

Obituaries

MRS MARY HENRY (nee Emery) - In May, 1890, the death of Mrs Mary Henry, sister of the late James Emery, of Nethervale, was recorded. "...she had reached the age of 74 years, had been ailing for a considerable time past, and latterly had been in charge of one of her daughters, Mrs Isabella Johnston. The immediate cause of death was decay of nature, and she leaves behind her a family of six... The remains were interred on Sunday last in the Church of England portion of Porter's Garden Cemetery. The deceased lady came to the district in 1856, had resided in it ever since, and was known in her young days, and before illness overtook her, as an honest, industrious and exemplary housewife."

Kiama Independent
May 13, 1890

MR JAMES BLOW - In June, 1890, the community mourned the loss of Mr James Blow, of Foxground. "...the deceased devoted his life and energies to the comfort and well-being of his family... He was a native of County Fermanagh, Ireland, and came to the colony with his father, the late John Blow, and family, in the year 1838, and settled on a farm near the Figtree, the property of the late James Shoobert, of Wollongong; after some years he moved to Avondale, Dapto, and thence to the Foxground, of which place he may be said to be one of the pioneer settlers. In 1856 he married Miss Bovard, daughter of the late John Bovard, of Dapto, the issue of the marriage being three sons and five daughters... Deceased, who was a magistrate of the territory, had evidently been breaking up for some time, though nothing serious was anticipated, yet the end came somewhat suddenly, the illness lasting only two days; on the first he complained of weakness, but rallied again; on the second the relapse was fatal. His remains were interred in the Gerringong Cemetery." The day following Mr Blow's funeral, Sunday June 22, The Rev Luke Parr of Berry preached a special sermon in St James Church, Foxground, touching the life and death of the deceased.

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CAROLINE BLAKE KENDALL - In July, 1891, the Independent reported that, in the space of four months, six persons who had been identified with the early settlement of the Kiama district and who had "left the impress of their social and moral influence on society", had passed on. They were James Colley aged 72, William Gordon 81, Mrs Pike 77, John Carruthers 85, Mrs Robb 74, and, lastly, Mrs Caroline Blake Kendall, who died on June 27, 1891, aged in her 82nd year. "Mrs Kendall was a native of the colony, born on November 28, 1809, at Newington, Parramatta. When aged only six years, she lost both her parents and came to reside with her mother's friend, Mrs Simpson. After the marriage of her sister, to the late Michael Hindmarsh, she came to the district and resided with them at Alne Bank, Gerringong. On January 11, 1830, she was married from their residence to Mr Thomas Surfleit Kendall, by the Rev John Dunmore Lang, then the Presbyterian Chaplain of Sydney, and for eight years afterwards resided at Happy Villa on their own (Barroul estate)." After an eight-year stint at Ulladulla, the family returned to Barroul, where Mr Kendall died in 1883. Mrs Kendall left a family of seven children, three sons and four daughters. "The deceased lady was so old a resident and so well known that nearly every reader of the Independent are as well acquainted with her many excellent qualities of both mind and heart as oneself... her benevolence

and generosity was of the highest type, and any appeal in the interest of those who suffered from accident or sickness commanded her true womanly sympathy. Nor did her Christian charity wait for an appeal to be made, as many will remember to their dying day the help, the comfort and hope that accompanied her spontaneous attendance at the bedside of the suffering sick. She was essentially the friend and helper of the indigent poor." Mrs Kendall was buried beside her husband in the private burial ground on the family estate.

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SIR JOHN ROBERTSON - In May, 1891, the death of Sir John Robertson - whose name is immortalised in, among other landmarks, Kiama's Robertson Basin at Kiama Harbour - was recorded. The Independent described Sir Robertson as "the best known man in New South Wales", adding that "everybody had something to tell of him in all kindness and sympathy". He was found dead in bed at his Watson's Bay home by his son, John Robertson jun, and a manservant. It appears Sir Robertson had died as he had wished, in his sleep suddenly and painlessly and 'make no fuss about it'. The official cause of death was speculated as "heart weakness". Sir Robertson, who was largely responsible for rallying for the construction of the Kiama Harbour in his capacity as NSW Minister for Works, was aged 74 years.

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MISS MARGARET CAMPBELL - "It is my sad duty to record the death, on Tuesday last, of Miss Margaret Campbell, sister of our respected resident, Mr Alex Campbell. The deceased was a native of the district, being born in a portion of the Moega estate, 51 years ago, and has spent the greater part of her life in Gerringong. For seven years she had been a great sufferer, and four years ago was rendered comparatively helpless by a paralytic stroke. This did not, however, in any way interfere with her faculties, which were keen and clear to the last. On Wednesday last her remains were interred in the local cemetery, whither they were followed by a large number of people, the Rev G Heighway officiating at the grave."

Kiama Independent
October 25, 1892

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MARY ANN SMITH - In February, 1893, an obituary appeared which not only outlined the death of a well-known local citizen, but contained within it vital information on the history of Kiama's first home-owner, David Smith, and the location of the first home ever built in Kiama. "Mary Ann Smith, second daughter of the late David Smith, was born in the first house ever erected in Kiama in 1834. She was therefore, at the time of her death, 69 years of age. Her father emigrated to Australia about 70 years ago, and was one of the first pioneers in the colony's history of civilisation. Soon after his arrival he erected a house at the corner of which has since been proclaimed Manning and Bong Bong Streets, and there the history of the deceased and other members of her family commenced. At the time there was, where the town now stands, a good deal of brush, and therefore very few incidents of any note that can be furnished of the early days of the family's history on Australian soil... the parents soon gained a competency which had, since the death of both the mother and the father, reverted to the members of the family, two sons and two daughters, and which has enabled them to live what might be termed a retired life" (Kiama Independent, 18/2/1893). After the death of her

parents the deceased, being the only unmarried member of the family, continued to live in the "ancient tenement" left by her parents on the western side of Manning Street. This was until construction on the Kiama railway works began in her back yard she was forced her to build a new home - on the opposite side of the street. Here she lived with a widowed sister until her death. Miss Smith had been suffering from an internal complaint which progressed to violent vomiting, which culminated in inflammation and "mortification". She was buried at Porter's Garden Beach Cemetery.

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MRS CATHERINE HONEY - 1893 was a year of tragedy for Kiama's Honey family, seven months prior to the drowning deaths of Captain Thomas Honey and his wife, Elizabeth, Captain Honey's mother, Catherine (and wife of John Honey), died of chronic disease of the heart. "...The deceased was unobtrusive and kind-hearted, desirous of devoting a share of her abundance to the necessities of the sick and indigent, and was accordingly highly respected. She, with her husband and two sons, came from Bodmin, Cornwall, England, arriving in Sydney in 1857, and they at once settled in this district, first at Jerrara, next at Mount Joy, and then at Barnhill where, by dint of unceasing industry and well directed energy, added to a valuable farming experience to England, the old couple, intelligently and nobly assisted by their two sons, made an independency, and a few years ago retired to their own property in Shoalhaven Street... Thomas, the eldest, being a JP and Captain of the local corps of Volunteer Infantry, and Henry Havelock, the younger, being Lieutenant of the same corps. The deceased is a member of the Episcopal Church, as also are the surviving members of the family. The funeral takes place today, and the services will be conducted by the incumbent of Christ Church, the Rev Herbert Guinness."

Kiama Independent
May 2, 1893

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MR HENRY GRAY - In March, 1894, the death of another of Kiama's early settlers and former alderman, Henry Gray, was recorded. Mr Gray, who died in his 80th year, was born in the village of Ederney, county Fermanagh, Ireland, in 1807. He arrived in the colony in 1842, accompanied by his wife Maria (nee Walmsley) and three children. Shortly afterwards he migrated to the district, where he had been preceded by his brother, the late George Gray, who died at Mount Salem in 1887, and settled on the Riversdale estate, the property of the late James Robb, where he remained, engaged in the occupation of dairy farmer. He then removed to a farm in Gerringong, it being a portion of the Omega estate, the property of the late James Mackay Gray, where he remained for the next 19 years. "Success having attended well-directed energy, assisted by an interesting and industrious family, he purchased a farm on the Saddleback", where he stayed for six years before he purchased a property known as Hawthorn Glen, at Fountaindale, near Jamberoo, where he died after resident there for 24 years. "In his active life he was liberal in politics. He was an alderman serving for some years the interests of Gerringong in the then municipality of Kiama, and enthusiastic member of the Church of England. Besides his wife, who is younger by 10 years than the deceased, he leaves two sons and nine daughters." The total family number 13, but two boys died young. He also left 74 grand

and 14 great-grand children. The Rev B Stephens, incumbent of Jamberoo, conducted the funeral service during which he "spoke of the deceased as an exemplary husband, father, neighbour and Christian, and exhorting those present to live the life of the righteous, that their last end may be like his".

Kiama Independent
March 1, 1894

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MR JOHN TAYLOR - In September, 1894, the community lost another great individual in the form of renowned local engineer and surveyor, John Taylor, aged 84. In reading Mr Taylor's obituary, we learn that while he led a successful life professionally, his personal life was touched by tragedy which saw him gradually "waste away", in later years. "Among the early settlers of this district south of the Macquarie Rivulet, the influence of no single individual has had more to do with its development, progress and status than the late John Taylor who died on Sunday last at the residence of Mr Thomas Duggan, and was buried on the following day in the public cemetery at Porter's Garden Beach... He was a Scotsman, and although essentially a self-taught man, he was intimately acquainted with and enjoyed a friendly correspondence with Professor Smith, of Aberdeen University, who held him in high esteem as an engineer, mathematician and scientist. He came to

this colony in the prime of manhood, and was chief engineer of the Woodstock Company, which was of English origin, and was consequently contemporary with the late Dr and James Waugh, Dr Menzie, RB Fry and Captain Hart, of the same company. He was also the mainstay, if not the originator, of the Kiama debating society, which did so much for the education and intellectual development of the young men in the early days of the district... Mr Taylor, having settled in Kiama, became a government licensed surveyor for most of the free selections in the district under the Land Act of 1861... he was presented with a life membership of the Royal Society of Engineers, England, and the Institutes of Science and Mathematics of Paris and Berlin. He was a married man and, some time after his settlement in Kiama with his wife and two children, a daughter and a son, the latter who was the younger of the two, a youth of great promise, was burned to death in an outhouse, where he slept, and the father never recovered from the shock produced by this calamity. Not very long afterwards his wife and mother passed away, and the death of the daughter, then Mrs Boles, followed. From this point the old gentleman chose an isolated life and gradually but surely wasted away and died as before mentioned aged 84 years."

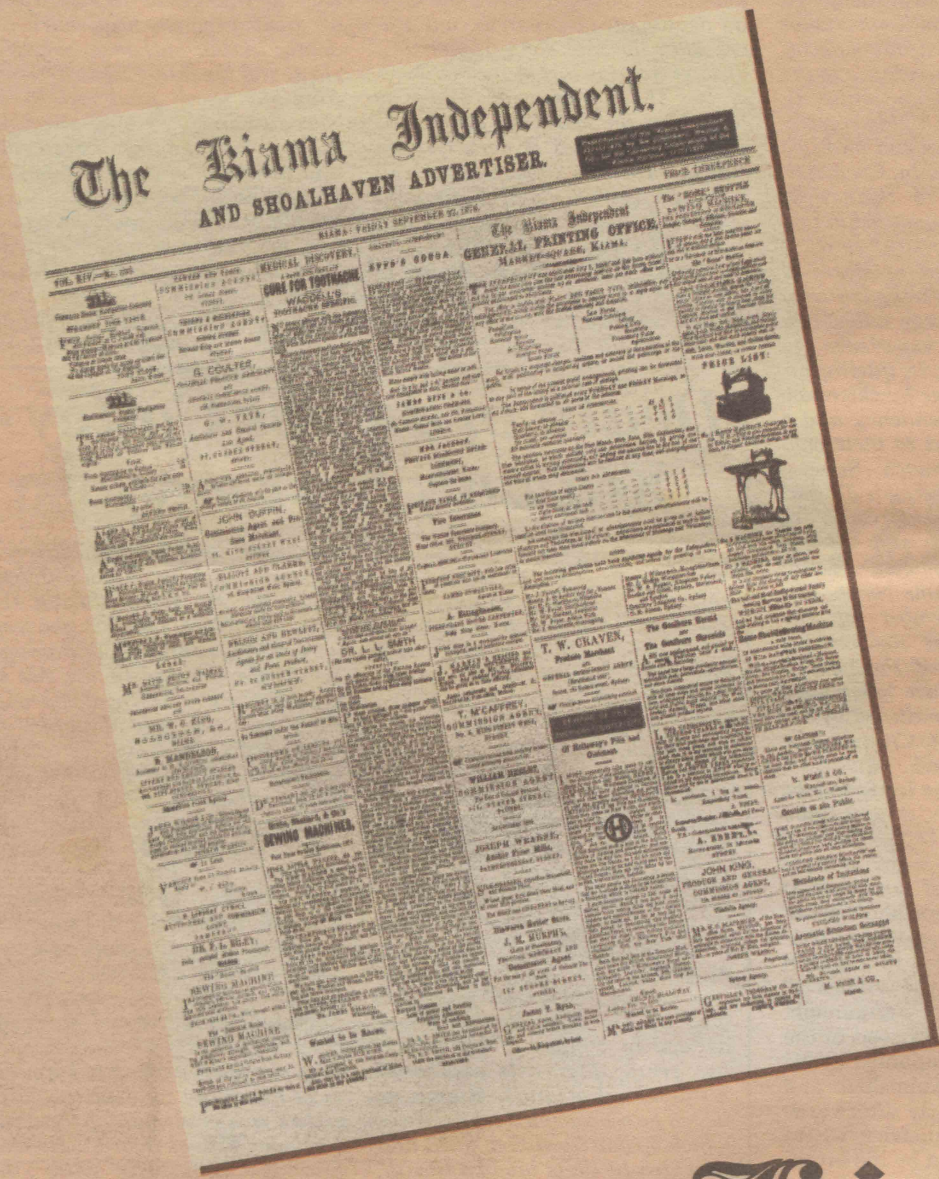
Kiama Independent
September 13, 1894

Death of James Colley - Kiama's first mayor

JAMES COLLEY - On Sunday, February 1, 1891, no more a significant death was witnessed in the district than with the passing of Kiama's first mayor and respected community leader, James Colley, at age 72. Mr Colley was described by the Kiama Independent as "a man who, while he lived, counted every man his friend, being essentially a peace-maker, never made an enemy, and having taken part in all public matters, was known to nearly every member of the community, by whom he was deservedly held in the highest esteem. He was born at Ballymony, County Antrim, Ireland, in 1818 and, accompanied by his elder brother John, arrived in Sydney in 1841, and two years afterwards purchased his first block of land in Kiama, on which he soon erected the house in which he had lived ever since, and in which he drew his last breath. Even the house, which is one of the oldest erections in Kiama, is intimately associated with our early local history and, subsequent progress, for in it was established the first School of Arts, an institution which did much for the higher education of the promising young men of that day, and at its demise donated several hundred volumes of valuable books, which formed the nucleus of our Free Public Library. In this dwelling was also held the first Presbyterian public service in Kiama. The earlier energies of the deceased gentleman were centred in planting Presbyterianism in the district, and his after life was marked by an enthusiastic devotion to every cause which had a moral or religious tendency. He was the chief mover in building the existing Presbyterian Church in Terralong Street, in connection with which he was an Elder and Treasurer... He also took a leading part in the establishment of the Kiama municipality, when he was elected at the head of the poll, and

was appointed the first Mayor, a position which he held at different times for six years, during the struggles which ended in the temporary suspension of the Borough before the passing of the Act of 1867... On the death of his wife (who was the only daughter of Alexander Moles of Tongarra) which took place in 1869, Mr Colley withdrew from active association with matters political, and was subsequently appointed Parliamentary Returning Officer, which position he held for years... He was appointed to the commission of the peace in 1859, and was contemporary with Messrs Grey, Hindmarsh, Waugh, Menzie, Fry, Marks, Kendall, Robb, Chapman, King and Black, all since dead... Mr Colley was an ardent supporter of education, and in the early sixties was chairman of the local National School Board... He was heartily identified with the British and Foreign Bible Society, the Agricultural Association and the Gas Company... In no department of usefulness nor in any position of trust and honour did he excel more than as Worshipful Master of the Kiama Samaritan Lodge of Freemasons... His last illness may be said to have commenced in 1888, but only lately was he entirely confined to the house, and simple decay may be cited as the cause of death." Mr Colley was buried in the family plot in Porter's Garden Beach Cemetery, the service being performed by the Revs Dr Kinross, Burgess, Jackson and Guinness, after which a Masonic burial service was read by CW Craig, WM of the Kiama Lodge. Of the original Colley family, which consisted of four brothers and four sisters, only three survive, John of Greendale, Jamberoo, William of Parkmount, near Kiama, and Matilda of 'The Hill', Kiama. The deceased left five daughters and three sons.

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