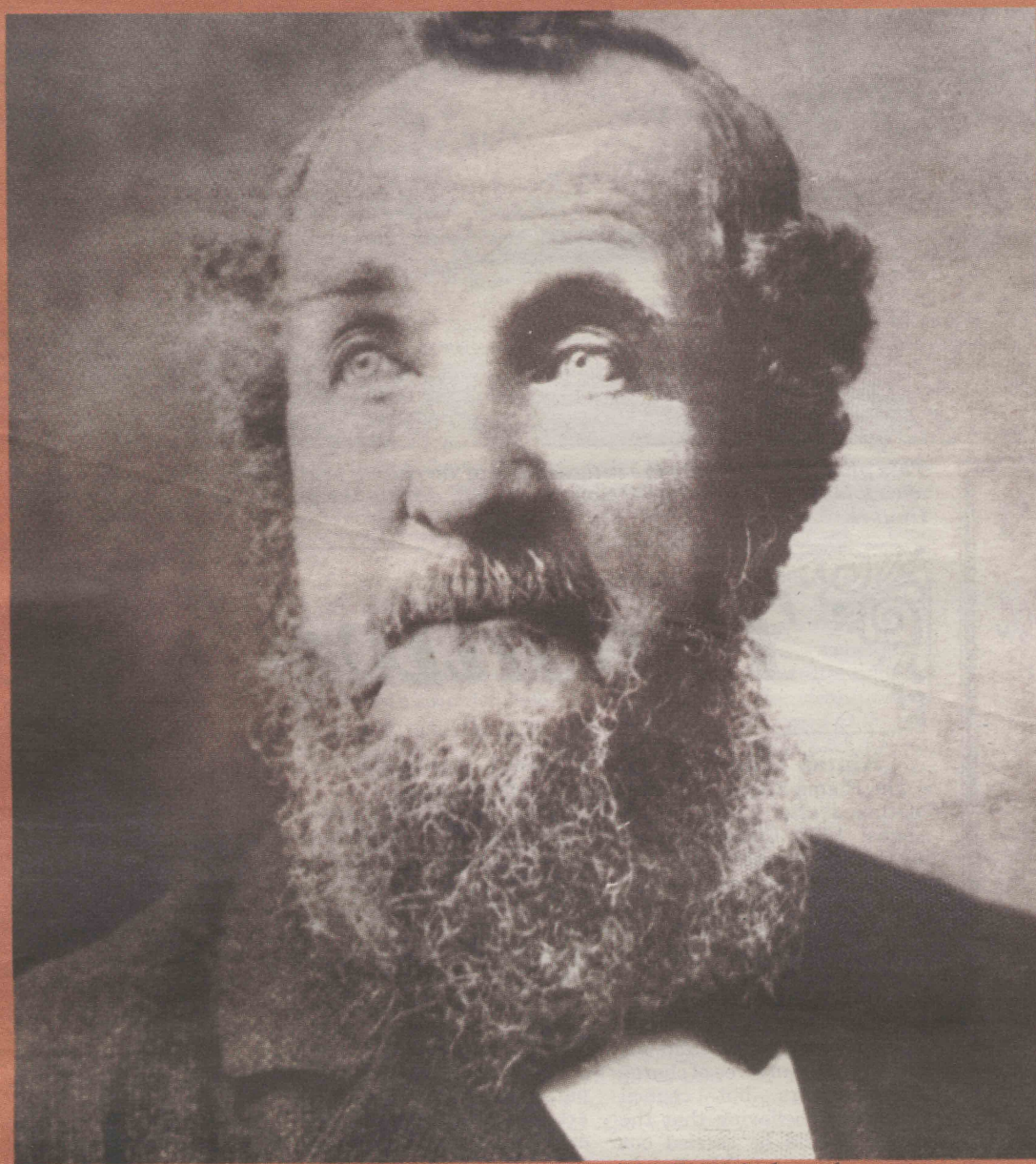


Kiama

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 4

COLLECTOR'S EDITION

May 2000

A Kiama Independent
Twelve Volume Millennium Feature

Individual Copies \$2 available from Kiama Independent office

~ 1885-1889 ~

THE period 1885 to 1889 represented yet another significant era in the history of Kiama Municipality.

It saw the construction - and failure - of Kiama's first tramway system and the opening of the Illawarra Railway line to Kiama; but not without a great degree of headache along the way.

More successful was the construction of

the Kiama Cottage Hospital which had the effect of not only dramatically improving the standards of local health care, but uniting all cross-sections of the community in a common cause.

The period also saw the construction of Kiama Lighthouse, opening of the Kiama Rock Pool, the formation of Kiama's first lifesaving brigade, moves to build a town hall in Terralong Street and to establish a Kiama Fire Brigade.

On the sporting front, football clubs were formed, including the "Our Boys" club at Gerringong.

On a more serious note, members of the Kiama Volunteer Corps became the first local men to participate in an overseas military campaign - a war in the Sudan in 1885. Seven men left, only six returned.

Following on from the success of the Kiama Pioneer Dairy Factory, several other

outlets were launched at both Jamberoo and Gerringong under the revolutionary factory system.

These included a Cream Separating Plant at Rose Valley, the Woodstock and Waughope Butter Factories at Jamberoo, the Omega Dairy Factory and the Gerringong Butter Factory.

By Michelle Hootor

Research Assistant: Chloe Ashbolt



This photograph shows the intersection of Terralong and Collins Streets. Note the Temperance Hall (today's Masonic Hall) which is still under construction on the left, dating the photograph to about 1878. Note also the absence of today's Terrace Houses.

Don't be led up
the garden path

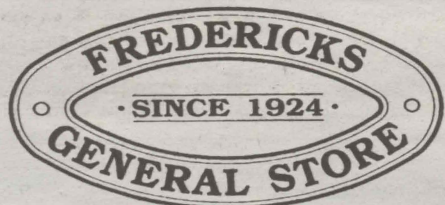


When you need a specialist in Property,
Local Govt & Planning or Family Law,
call Kearns & Garside on 4232 1188



Kearns & Garside SOLICITORS
Sandy Rendel - Accredited Specialist Property Law
Peter Moggach - Accredited Specialist Local Govt & Planning
John Littrich - Accredited Specialist Family Law
Stephen Warwick - BA LLB

66 Collins Street, Kiama - 4232 1188



**FRESH
FREE RANGE CHICKEN
NO HORMONES
NO CAGES
EAT SAFELY**

Available Fresh Friday Morning
Order Now

3 ALLOWRIE ST, JAMBEROO
4236 0185

Tramway, roads

Kiama Tramway

The Kiama Tramway project continued after its launch in August 1883, Council designing the line as a gravity system whereby the blue metal was to be driven in trucks down Terralong Street by steam engine before the unloaded trucks were hauled back to Pike's Hill by horse.

A quarrying contractor had previously offered to build the line privately and free of charge to ratepayers but council declined, it believing that the project should be carried out under public ownership. But, in taking on the project, council ignored the advice of the Public Works Department and built a 3'6" gauge tramway. This was slightly narrower than the recommended 4'8" line which would have provided a direct interchange for quarry products once the Illawarra Railway line was constructed through town.

In April, 1885, a large number of men could be seen working "down the whole length of the street" in their efforts to complete the line. The rails had already been laid from the post-office to the "old mill" (near Woolworths) and the rails were now being fastened to the sleepers.

Despite the progress, the general community did not warm to the project. By June, 1886, major signs of discontent were aired over the line which was regarded as having "disfigured" Terralong Street - the principal street of Kiama.

It also exposed residents to constant accidents, especially local children who were forced

to cross the line on their way to and from school.

In the face of this consternation, Kiama Council took formal delivery of its first tramway locomotive on December 9, 1886, at a cost of £1150. The engine - with its capacity to haul 18 tons - was supplied by J Fowler and Sons of Leeds, England.

A group of aldermen inspected the engine and were impressed by what they saw, particularly the state-of-the-art vacuum brake which enabled all wheels of the engine to be stopped simultaneously.

"It is pleasant to see the ease and suddenness with which the motor can be stopped on the steepest grades between the foot of Manning Street and the shoots at the wharf...the test is that it shall draw a load of eighteen tons up a gradient of 1 to 19."

Kiama Independent
December 10, 1886

But as trips were made up and down Terralong Street that day between the harbour and Pike's Cutting, a devastating realisation was made. Not only was the line unsuitable for connection to a future railway system - it was also too narrow to be properly negotiated by the engine.

From that day forward, there was no record of the line ever being used again. The newly-acquired engine was sold in 1888 while the rails were pulled up in 1889 and sold the following year.

Pound at Jamberoo

Roaming dogs were a problem during colonial times - not

only in built-up and commercial areas where the animals risked life and limb for food, but also on the farms where they wreaked havoc on livestock.

In June, 1885, the people of Jamberoo moved to eradicate the local menace with the establishment of a public pound.

The roads

By March, 1886, the local roads were causing a few headaches with horses stumbling on the blue metal surface. A Shellharbour man fell from his horse at the "Collins-street cutting" after it stumbled on the metal.

Within the week, Archie Campbell, son of Mr A Campbell of Gerringong, was cantering down Shoalhaven Street when, on reaching the corner near Tory's Hotel, his horse slipped and fell on the metal cubing. Campbell was "slightly shaken" while the horse sustained a deep cut.

"...It will not be out of place here to direct attention to the loose cubes and blocks of blue metal lying on the opposite side of the road where Mr G Wood's new store is erecting."

Kiama Independent
March 9, 1886

Progress work on the Jamberoo Mountain Road was mentioned every few years and again made an appearance in November, 1886, when it was announced that the deviation in this road, which began at "O'Mear's corner" (the top of "Boyle's hill") and joined the road again near the residence of Mr Thomas Collins, had commenced.

The project, while reducing the gradient of the thoroughfare, provided work for a team of unemployed workers hailing from Sydney. This knowledge raised eyebrows in the Kiama community, the *Independent* pointing out that "charity begins at home", and that the surplus labour of the local area should have been given first preference.

In November, 1887, Gerringong Council asked for the assistance of Kiama Council to improve the condition of the thoroughfare at the "Bush Bank deviation", stating that, in wet weather, it was almost impassable. A suggestion was made that the road surface be metalled.

History Challenge?

It has long been held that the first meeting of Kiama Municipal Council was held at Adams Steam Packet Hotel in Terralong Street on September 26, 1859. In an editorial published in the *Kiama Independent* on January 20, 1888, however, we found the following: *"...But if ever there was a time since the first Council met in Harvison's cottage - now the site of the new City Bank (now Westpac) - when municipal matters were of paramount importance, and the choice of men a sacred trust or obligation, it is now."*

Life saving, lighthouse, sewerage

Kiama Life Saving Corps

In 1886, the NSW Government offered Kiama Municipal Council the use of a Manbys Mortar Life-saving Apparatus - a system of ropes and pulleys also known as the "rocket" - for use in ocean rescues.

Council's only obligation was to provide a storage area to house the equipment, but lack of funding saw council sit on the offer; one alderman even suggested the offer be declined. Alderman Graham, however, recommended that the matter stand over until council had the funds to build a storage shed.

But the *Independent* reasoned that the equipment could be housed in an existing shed located in the harbour area. The smallest of the three buildings on Blowhole Point and belonging to the Agricultural & Horticultural Society was deemed appropriate.

The apparatus did not arrive until April, 1888, when a meeting was held to form a brigade to work the equipment. Twenty five men indicated their willingness to join the "Kiama Life Saving Corps" which was formed under the captaincy of Mr Sefton.

The first training session was held two weeks later when the equipment was tested between Church and Blowhole Points. *"Being of a unique nature, that is as far as Kiama is concerned, there was a large crowd assembled... The modus operandi was as follows:- On the opposite side from where the ball was fired with the rope attached, red flags were erected which were supposed to be the position of a wrecked vessel; the mortar being loaded with the ball (about 25lbs) and rope attached, and charged with eight ounces of powder, was fired at the flags on the opposite side... The hauser was then hauled to the same side and made fast, after which the buoy breeches were attached, and three persons successfully hauled from one side to the other."*

Kiama Independent
April 24, 1888

By October, 1888, the Corps was experiencing difficulty as few members were able to attend the day-time training sessions as they were, in doing so, forced to forfeit a day's wage. This problem was overcome by Captain Sefton who explained the circumstances to the Marine Board and secured an allowance of 10s (\$1) per quarter to each member of the brigade who attended practice.

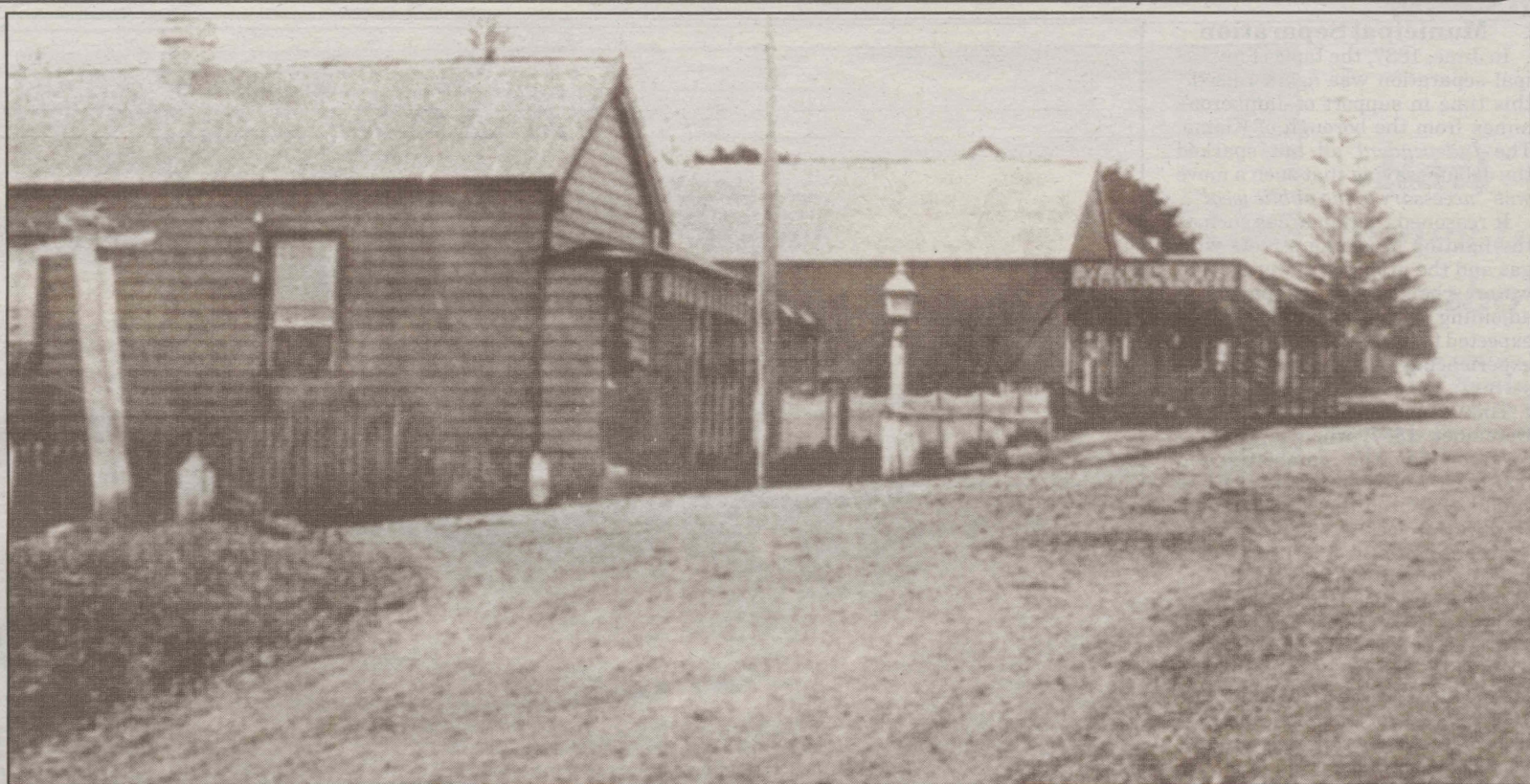
Kiama Lighthouse

With the exception of a few coats of paint, construction of the Kiama Lighthouse was reported as being finished in August, 1886. And the structure was regarded with as much affection as that afforded another significant local building - the Kiama Post Office (and its clock, of course!).

"Kiama Lighthouse - From the construction of the Pharos of Alexandria to that of 'our lighthouse' in Kiama is a long stretch of time; so the differences in construction and the powers of illumination are no less diverse. To those who have journeyed for a lengthened period over the ocean, the cry of 'land' comes not only as a relief, but sends a thrill of joyous anticipation through the hearts of the voyagers... The various Australasian governments with eager rivalry have endeavoured to supply these beacons, so that now from point to point 'where dangers lurk unseen', the way of the seafarer is made plain to him."

Kiama Independent
August 10, 1886

The lighthouse, situated on the "round apex of Blowhole Point", stood from sea level to the light at a height of 224 feet. The foundation



An early photograph of Gerringong township - taken after the introduction of gas lighting to the local streets. PHOTO: Ken Miller.

was of concrete, 14 feet in depth and 12 feet in diameter. The building was of brick, cemented outside and plastered within. The light, which was expected to be of similar power to the Hornby light, near Watson's Bay, was shortly expected to arrive from England.

The light-keeper's cottage, a "plain but pleasant looking building" containing four rooms, was located close to the lighthouse. The contractors for the work was Messrs Anderson and Taylor, of Sydney.

Fixing of the lantern was not completed until November, 1886, the work being delayed following an "afterthought" to light the lantern with gas. The lantern, manufactured by Chance Bros of England, was lit for the first time on January 1, 1887.

Jamberoo

As one might guess from the lack of entries made regarding Jamberoo in our most recent supplements, the area had settled into a quiet pattern by the 1880s. The nature of the area prompted its local correspondent to wax lyrical about its merits and whether it were ready to be upgraded in status from "village" to a more "grandiloquent title".

As can be gathered from the writer's ponderings, the township had become quite the proud little clique that it continues to be (to an extent) to the present day.

"...When one happens to get a view over the 'settlement', as it used to be called, from any of the neighbouring heights, the village of Jamberoo really assumes the aspect of the place of considerable importance; and one begins to suspect that it will soon grow contemptuous of the appellation of 'village', and demand a more grandiloquent title... Most dwellers in Jamberoo, I think, regard the neighbourhood as the pleasantest part of the district; and there are some who have the same kind of feeling towards it that a certain class of persons in the old country have towards their native village, the feeling namely that arises from their having been born in it, and seen very little beyond it."

Kiama Independent
September 7, 1886

Sewerage

After years of criticism about the state of the town water supply and sewerage system, it took the contamination of the water by typhoid to

prompt Kiama Municipal Council into action. In 186-1887, an epidemic of typhoid swept Sydney and Melbourne before spreading to outer-lying localities, including Kiama, local authorities believing the illness had been conveyed by travellers who used the local cesspits and polluted the town water supply.

"...By this means the water has been polluted and the poison retained in the subsoil has been drawn to the surface by heat. The first and foremost question was, what was to be done?"

Kiama Independent
June 10, 1887

Several local deaths had already been recorded before, in June 1887, the deputy government medical adviser, Dr Ashburton Thompson, was asked to make an official inspection of the town and to suggest methods of overhauling the local water/sewerage system.

Dr Thompson met a delegation consisting of Mayor, Alderman Simmons and the Council clerk and advised that two things were necessary to rid the town of typhoid - a proper water supply and the "dry-earth" sewerage system (the use of pans). He recommended that all underground tanks be abolished and replaced with iron tanks and that the water be conveyed by standpipes - as was the system being used in Sydney.

Dr Thompson said, however, that before any new system was introduced, a house-to-house

inspection must be made whereby the closet (toilet) accommodation and water supply of each dwelling was registered. A by-law would then have to be passed enabling council to abolish cesspits and substitute the dry earth system. This would entail the employment of labour to have the cesspits emptied while council would also need a reserve proclaimed where the "night soil" could be deposited.

Alderman Simmons said that, at present, all refuse was emptied into the sea, prompting Dr Thompson to advise that continuing this practice would "depend on the currents, for if the refuse was carried round into the cove, the remedy would be a bad one".

The council delegation also suggested the need for an improved water supply,

adding that it did not have to be a house-to-house system. A dam large enough to supply the whole town was considered sufficient, with the supply being conveyed by pipes so that people could rely on having "pure" water.

In adopting the pan system, Dr Thompspon said that householders could empty the pans at their leisure, or pay the council six pence a week for the service.

In concluding, the doctor admired "the cleanliness of the yard at the rear of the ES&A Bank, and a few others which he had visited, but generally speaking, there was not a clean back yard in the whole of Kiama".

The Mayor said that he would present Dr Thompson's advice to council and "see what could be done in the matter of remedying existing evils in their present circumstances". He said that a water supply could

be had at a small cost by "laying a pipe from where there was an abundance of water and a neutral fall giving considerable pressure". Council could not, however, afford a "complete scheme of water supply" which was estimated to cost £25,000 (\$62,500).

Beatrice Everest Solicitor

We are happy to accept instructions in
COMPENSATION CLAIMS for

- ◆ Work Injuries
- ◆ Motor Accidents
- ◆ Public Liability

As well as assisting you with all of
your Conveyancing requirements at
competitive prices.

10 Tingira Crescent, Kiama
PHONE 4232 3680

Warning: The Workers Compensation Act provides severe penalties (fines and imprisonment) for the making of a false workers compensation claim.

Australia "foolish"

In 1887, on the eve of the colony's centenary, the public debated efforts by the Government to name the Colony "Australia". Apparently, it was not a decision which suited many inhabitants of Jamberoo.

"The efforts which are being made to change the name of the colony to 'Australia' are generally disapproved of and regarded only as one of those 'foolish ideas' which for some unaccountable reason the 'old veteran' now and then takes into his heart to carry out."

'Jamberoo
Correspondent'
Kiama Independent
November 29, 1887

Olympic Fact No. 1

The Olympic flag has a plain white background with no border. In the centre of the flag are five rings with three rings of blue, black and red above and two rings of yellow and green below.

The 5 Olympic rings symbolise the five continents: Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and America and the colours of the rings were chosen because at least one of theme can be found on the flag of every nation.

Brought to you by:-

STEVE WILSON,
1 Morton Street, Kiama.

4232 4713 **AMP**

Proper Authority Holder AMP Financial Planning Pty. Ltd.
ACN 051 208 327 Licensed Securities Dealer APC 9600

Fire brigade, rock pool, crime

Municipal Separation

In June, 1887, the topic of municipal separation was again raised - this time in support of Jamberoo's annex from the borough of Kiama. The *Independent* all but sparked the debate, saying that such a move was "necessary to the public weal".

It reasoned that, in areas such as the lighting of Kiama streets with gas and the proposed sewerage and water schemes, the ratepayers of adjoining wards should not be expected to fund such projects while experiencing little benefit themselves.

This stance was repeated in December, 1887, when it was discovered that the Jamberoo and Southern Wards of the district had equally financed the failed Kiama tramway project.

According to the 165th section of the Municipalities Act, ratepayers in outerlying districts were only to be levied if they had something to gain from a specific municipal project. This realisation caused the *Independent* to conclude that "The only remedy for such an unequal state of things appears to be separation".

By April the following year, a petition was circulated under the charge of John Holbrook to ascertain the desire for separation. Within the month 120 signatures had been collected in support of the movement. For the canvass to be successful, two thirds of the relevant ratepayers had to be in agreement.

Town Hall

In April 1888, plans were set in motion for the construction of a town hall on the corner of Terralong and Collins Streets (today's Kiama Leagues Club).

The only venue for public gatherings and entertainment - the Temperance Hall - was considered far too small for the demands of a growing population.

An Oddfellows Hall was already under construction on the preferred site but progress had been halted due to conditions imposed on the site by its owner, Mr Hindmarsh.

Hopes that Kiama Council would build the hall were dashed after it indicated it would not be in the position to fund such a project for the next 20 to 30 years. As a consequence, a public company was formed to raise revenue by way of public shares.

At town meeting, a recommendation was passed that "It is desirable to form a company to build a public hall in Kiama on the site offered by the Oddfellows".

Messrs MN Hindmarsh, HF Noble, J Weston, GI Sefton, J



Stephen Major's Store

A prominent Kiama store which was established in Manning Street in 1862 was Stephen Major's - Draper, Grocer, Ironmonger &c. Mr Major, we believe, also expanded into Jamberoo and Gerringong over the years.

Evans, George Tory sen, and AG Russell were elected as provisional directors, their role being to draw up a prospectus and float a company. Capital was to be £3000 in £1 shares.

Kiama Fire Brigade

The first call for the establishment of a Kiama Fire Brigade was made in 1878, but nothing was done beyond this point for another 10 years until April, 1888, when a requisition for a brigade was presented to Mayor HF Noble.

The requisition, signed by 30 residents of the town, was presented at a public meeting held in the Kiama Council chamber.

On receiving the document, Mr Noble commented on the "very poor means the town of Kiama had for extinguishing fire" adding that the houses were close to one another and, in case of fire, they had only private tanks to depend upon.

Mr Noble said that the great drawback in forming a fire brigade was the scarcity of water. He thought it wise to have a fire engine, the cost of which he said could easily be met by the residents of Kiama "who should not be backward in finding money for such a necessary project".

He said that there were plenty of

young men in Kiama who could form a first-class brigade and he "would now leave the matter in their hands to be dealt with as they thought proper".

Kiama Rock Pool

In November, 1888, the community met with the aim of establishing a men's "swimming bath" at the foot of Blowhole Point, together with a ladies' bath at Church Point.

The first resolution was moved that the site marked out, surveyed and recommended by Mr JA Rossbach for a men's bath, and situated on the north shore terrace of rocks, be accepted.

The meeting was told that, by slightly excavating the bed of rock and placing concrete walls on the surface, a swimming bath 68ft long, 48ft wide and a depth of eight feet on the west side and three feet on the east could be achieved.

The bath was stated as being "surf swept" with not the slightest danger being involved. The cost of the work was not expected to surpass £70.

The meeting decided to embark on raising £100 for both a ladies' and men's bath and then ask the Government for financial assistance on a pound for pound basis. The meeting also decided that unless the initial £70 was raised, the project not be proceeded with.

The subscriptions were promptly raised and the new men's rock pool was officially opened in the summer of 1889.

Law & Order

Kiama Local Court continued to hear the usual cases of drunkenness, obscene larrikinism and even several cases of wife desertion. Also on the agenda was a flagrant disregard for the law by some local gents who continued to swim in contravention of local bathing restrictions. This included the following case of two young men, William Salter and Thomas O'Brien, who shocked the sensitivities of local townsfolk - one by bathing nude. Their charge - committing an infringement of the Towns Police Act, the outline of which provides an insight into bathing laws of the time.

"The first case heard was that of William Salter. The portion of the Act under which he was arraigned is cited under Section 24... and is follows: 'Any person bathing near to or within view of any public wharf, quay, bridge, street, road or other public place of resort between the hours of 6 in the morning and 8 in the evening, will be liable to a penalty not exceeding £1 (\$2.50)'. Thomas O'Brien was arraigned under section 22 which applies to persons bathing naked and is as follows: 'Any individual offending against decency by exposing his or her person in any public street, public place or within view thereof, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £10' (\$25)."

Kiama Independent
November 8, 1889

Mr Salter was ultimately fined 1s and 4s 10d (10 cents and 50 cents) court costs, while Mr O'Brien was fined 2s and 4s 10d court costs.

Education

In 1885, class numbers at Gerringong Public School grew to the point where an extension was required. By March tenders for "additions and improvements" to the school were called.

In November, a concert was held at Gerringong to aid the Foxground Public School prize book fund.

The concert, which took place in the School of Arts, was a most successful affair with 300 people attending.

The musical program included a "sweet" rendition of *Her Bright Smile Still Haunts Me* by Miss Mary Black of Kiama, while Miss Ryan of Broughton Creek sang, *You'll Remember Me and I've Brought Thee an Ivy Leaf*, very nicely.

In August, 1889, we learned that a petition calling for the construction of a public school at Bombo had been forwarded to the Minister for Education.

The Blowhole

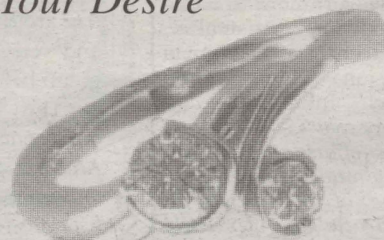
One hears about the extraordinary capacity of the Kiama Blowhole in its glory days and, in reading the following item, we gain an appreciation of why it became such a famous landmark.

"The Kiama Blowhole was, on Saturday morning, in a state of activity that has not been witnessed for many a day. The south-east wind which blew on Saturday had the effect of disturbing the before peaceful billows, and caused them to foam and roll to a degree that was extremely dangerous to shipping. The visitors who had arrived in Kiama by the Saturday's train had ample opportunity on Sunday morning of witnessing great volumes of water being forced up higher than the light-house, through the huge crater which bears the somewhat singular, though nevertheless applicable cognomen of 'blowhole'."

Kiama Independent
October 23, 1888

OLD OR NEW RING DESIGNS CAN BE MADE

In Gold or Silver
to Your Desire



With a New Ring or Remodelling an Old Favourite Ring

Stephen Ray's Jewellery P/L
66 Terralong Street, Kiama - Phone 4232 1167

PLAN COPYING

20% OFF

ON PRESENTATION OF THIS AD DURING JULY

Black & White Copying. Colour Copying, Binding, Laminating (up to 1300mm wide), Business Printing, Large Format Plotting

Ki Print 1/126 Terralong St., Kiama
4232 3656

Railway comes to Kiama

By 1887, work on the No 4 Section of the Illawarra Railway edged closer to Kiama, much to the excitement of the township.

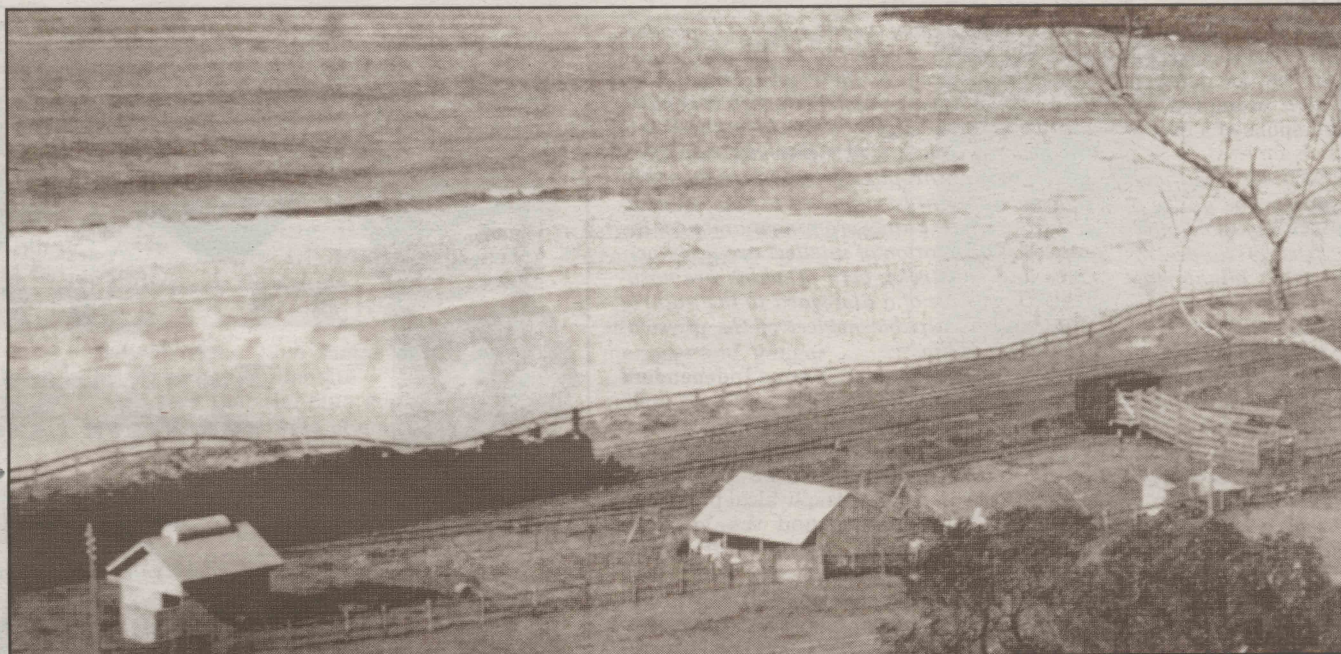
With regard to the route, the Government was finally convinced of the folly of constructing a line through the Terragong Swamp. Consideration was also made to have the line travel from Albion Park via Jamberoo and on to Foxground, missing Kiama altogether. Ultimately, though, the Government opted for a more coastal route across the Minnamurra River, 'Eureka race track' (today's Kiama Golf Course) and through two cuttings - 'Dunster's Hill' at Dunmore, and 'Cameron's Hill' at Bombo.

Having reached Bombo, a new problem loomed. With just two months remaining on the project, survey work on an extension to Kiama was yet to begin, fuelling fears that the plant and machinery would be taken away before the line was extended, leaving it to grind to a halt at Bombo ('North Kiama').

Aside from engineering concerns, the lack of progress was partly the fault of the ratepayers who had been unable to decide the best site for a railway station or, as the *Independent* so succinctly charged: "Everyone wanted a railway, and everyone wanted the station to be opposite his own door".

Within four weeks of the completion date, the town was still yet to be surveyed, prompting a deputation to the Minister for Works and led by Angus Cameron and consisting of Messrs Woodward MLA, Kiama Mayor HF Noble, S Major, J Weston and A Kethel. A second deputation was led by the Hon S Charles who represented a section of the community who wanted the line to follow a less expensive route - around the cliffs of Kiama (and down Terralong Street) instead of through the hills.

Mr Sutherland, in replying to Mr Charles' deputation, said that, as the matter stood, he could "do nothing whatever". He said that the matter had been "brought into a 'hole', into which it should never have been allowed to go", adding that the line "ought never to have been carried to the beach at all" and that it should have gone through "a district where the returns would have been increased by the traffic on



Rail comes to Bombo

A steam train arrives at Bombo Railway Station - formerly known as "North Kiama Station" - in about 1888.

each side of it" (ie Jamberoo).

Despite vigorous campaigning, the survey work in Kiama was not carried out and the Illawarra Railway line to "Kiama" was officially opened at its terminus, Bombo, on November 9, 1887. The event was preceded by an article in the *Independent* which voiced concern over the "elaborate" nature of the supposedly "temporary" railway station erected at Porter's Garden Beach, Bombo. It was reasoned that, as the station was only temporary, "something in the shape of a portable box" would have been more appropriate.

"...The station house represented as a building of stud and weather-board, with iron roof, 30ft by 13ft, and lobby for the convenience of ladies with ample accommodation in the matter of urinals, water closets &c. The plans, like all Government works, are elaborate in the extreme."

Kiama Independent
November 8, 1887

As far as official openings go, the launch of North Kiama Railway Station - together with the momentous arrival of the first train in the district - was a non-event. Dignitaries who were to have travelled on the first train to Kiama on Wednesday, November 9, 1887, including the Minister for Works and Mr Cameron, MLA, "found

themselves, at the last moment, unable to attend". The lack of fanfare was not assisted by the Government which failed to furnish any details about the opening, including the time of the train's arrival and who would "pronounce the mystic opening words".

As a consequence, the celebrations were left to those brave enough to battle the heavy shower of rain that accompanied the engine's arrival.

But even this failed to inspire enthusiasm from the general public who were still smarting from both the Government's apparent snub and the inconvenience of having to travel beyond the town to board a train.

"...The sight of a locomotive is not new to most people in Kiama, and therefore one would be hardly likely to find a person who would not at once recognise the character of the iron horse as it rushed out of Cameron's Hill on Wednesday morning... Exactly at five minutes to eight o'clock in the morning the shrill whistle was heard on the adjoining hill, and at that moment the first passenger train, consisting of one first and one second-class carriage drawn by the powerful motor Bogan, made its appearance... There were about ten passengers to Kiama and a like number from Kiama. There was, however, no formal ceremony." Having achieved a rail service, the community

wasted no time in debating the scheduled timetable: "Matters in connection with the train service to and from North Kiama (if we must call it so), are at present somewhat awkward. The one and only train from Kiama leaving at 6am, and the one and only to Kiama arriving at 7.45pm."

It was only after the line's completion at Bombo that the community appeared to reach a consensus on the location of a station in Kiama central: "...The most available course seems to bring it across

Terralong-street, near the Scots Church, on to a site in what is known as Smith's block."

Kiama Independent
November 15, 1887

From this point two comprehensive community campaigns were launched - one to have the line extended into Kiama, and a second to have a branch line extended to Jamberoo.

While a route was surveyed from Minnamurra along the river to Jamberoo, as history was to show, it was never brought to fruition.

Official opening of Kiama Railway Station

The official opening of Kiama Railway Station was held on October 3, 1888, and represented one of the most colourful and gala occasions witnessed by the people of Kiama Municipality.

The opening ceremony was performed by the Governor of NSW, the Honourable Lord Rupert Carrington, who was met by a display of bunting and flags which stretched from one end of town to the other.

"...The town, for the first time, was dressed in its prettiest attire, some hundreds of flags of all sizes and colours fluttered briskly in long ribbon-like streamers, or in large stately folds like the sails of an argosy... At the corner of the Post Office, the only arch was put up, which spanned Terralong-street and carried the motto 'Welcome to Kiama' and 'Welcome to Lord Carrington'... The pilot station never looked prettier, a line of bunting extending from the flagstaff to the top of the lighthouse tower. The only two vessels in the harbour - the Venture and Scotia - were gay with bunting and gave air to the completeness of colours at the pilot station."

Kiama Independent
October 5, 1888

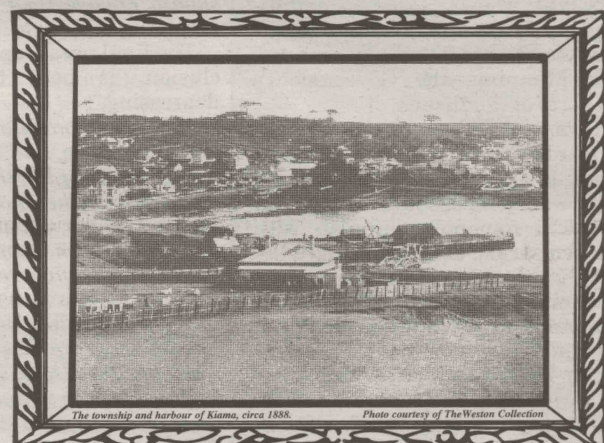
The Governor and his ministerial party - including Sir Henry Parkes - arrived at the station at 3.40pm where they were met by a reception committee and a detachment of the local volunteers led by Captain Honey, with Lieutenants Honey and Stevenson forming a guard of honour. Altogether there were about 400 people gathered at the station.

A grand procession accompanied the guests through Kiama to the grandstand at Kiama showground where addresses were presented by Kiama Mayor, HF Noble Esq on behalf of council, DL Dymock on behalf of the people, and D Salmond Esq on behalf of the Samaritan and Minnamurra Masonic Lodges of Kiama.

Illuminated addresses (framed presentations) were presented to Lord Carrington, they being printed on white satin and enclosed in massive gilt frames.

At the foot was a "pretty sketch" in water colours of Kiama Blowhole. The gathering then adjourned to the pavilion where a luncheon was served.

HISTORICAL PRINTS OF LOCAL KIAMA AREAS AND LANDMARKS



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

KIAMA PICTURE COMPANY OPEN 7 DAYS
106 Terralong Street 4233 1300

Jamberoo Pub welcomes Y2K

Established 1857

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

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

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

A Happy New Year to you all from everybody at the Jamberoo Pub and Saleyards Motel



12 Allowrie Street,
Jamberoo

PHONE 4236 0270

Society & everyday living

Scandal!

In March, 1885, the Kiama community was shocked by an "Anonymous Scandal" which had been "calculated to do an incalculable amount of harm" and which prompted the *Independent* to defend the honour of a prominent young woman.

"ANONYMOUS SCANDAL" - It is difficult to conceive how any person can be guilty of such a cowardly action as writing anonymous letters to other people's friends to destroy friendships which otherwise might last throughout life. Yet such is the case, as we have been informed by an old resident of this place, who has been the recipient of several anonymous letters, reflecting on the conduct of his daughter, who happens to possess rather an attractive manner and style which secure her many friends to the evident discomfort of the anonymous correspondent and others, whose jealous natures suggest the adoption of a vile mode of persecution, which betrays its object in its execution, and might cause endless unhappiness if not properly understood. Prudence, if not principle, would suggest the discontinuance of such a mischievous practice.

Kiama Independent
March 10, 1885

Insanity

In June, 1885, the *Independent* dealt with the issue of insanity, its attention beginning with the appearance in Kiama Police Court of a man, John Mitchell, who was alleged to have been "of unsound mind".

The prisoner had been accused of trying to burn down telegraph poles in the vicinity of Minnamurra Bridge, of pelting a police officer with "sticks and stones", using threatening language and bearing "all the evidences of being insane".

He was escorted to the Kiama Police lock-up where it was established he had been an inmate of the Callan Park Lunatic Asylum. On examination by two local doctors, he was declared insane and sent to the Gladesville Lunatic Asylum.

Two weeks later, the *Independent* editorialised on the prevalence of insanity in the colony, basing its comments on a report provided by Dr Manning, the Government's Inspector General of the Insane.

The report was not "by any means cheerful reading" - not only for the colonial but today's reader as well. It appears a belief prevailed that insanity was a byproduct of difficult times and would somehow diminish with time and modernisation. Disappointingly, the statistics were proving otherwise, posing the question of whether there was any "mode of life" sufficient to keep the human race from breaking down.

Through the benefit of history we know that, so far, there is not.

"...There is feverish excitement about modern life - in America for example - which is exercising a perceptibly injurious effect on the health and sanity of the people. To a greater or less extent, the same maddening influences are operative in this country as in other parts of the world. There is even reason to suppose that Australians as well as Americans may, and very likely do to some extent, develop spe-

cial types of insanity.

The proportion of insane subjects to population in NSW, according to Dr Manning's report, is about one in 1800 - an average which is not considered excessive, though it is sufficiently large to suggest prompt inquiry into the general causes of insanity, and to stimulate a philanthropic desire for such social reforms as might be supposed to have an ameliorating effect. Fairly prominent amongst the causes of aberration of intellect are intemperance and sunstroke, both of which are naturally suggestive of a disregard to the natural laws and a culpable neglect of the physical conditions of life."

Kiama Independent
July 3, 1885

The report said that a large proportion of the 2500 cases of insanity being treated could be attributed to domestic causes such as the loss of relatives or friends, physical privation, general mental anxiety and the "diseases incidental to women in the matrimonial state".

It discounted an assumption that "love affairs" played a large role in the number of cases as only four cases of "love madness" were recorded.

"...A much larger percentage of our lunatics owe their unenviable condition to business cares and reverses, mental anxiety, worry and overwork, the explanation of which must, we think, be looked for in such potent causes as gambling, over-speculation, avaricious greed and the keen competition of modern times... The consideration of such a subject as the present naturally brings home to the mind of every thoughtful person the unwelcome fact that, notwithstanding all the modern advances in science and art, in which we are wont to pride ourselves, we have after all advanced but a little in the art of living - living not alone in the sense of a luxurious supply of temporal necessities of which the age may justly boast if it will - but living the higher, nobler and purer life of rational beings gifted by a wise creator with faculties of mind, body and spirit, the harmonious exercise of which should engage their first and most earnest attention."

The final paragraph, with its startling conclusion, is both thought-provoking and depressing.

"There is room enough for the moral elevation of our race, and the cultivation of a more refined mode of life than is yet prevalent with the masses. The shortening of the hours of manual labour, which should be the outcome of all our time-saving and labour-saving inventions, ought to afford a desired opportunity for higher moral culture, but the most sanguine of reformers must admit, however unwillingly, that we are still very far from realising the dreams of social philosophers. So long as society contains its present discordant elements, so long will insanity last among us, and that will be to the end of the millennium."

Steam Packet Fire

The Kiama Central Business District was sent into a panic on a November evening in 1885 when the Steam Packet Hotel caught fire. The alarm was raised by the local con-



A State banquet was held in Sydney on January 26, 1888, to commemorate "the Completion of the First Hundred Years of Australian Settlement" and in attendance were the mayors of the colony including Gerringong Municipal Mayor, Andrew Nelson Esq, who was presented with this certificate to mark his attendance.

stabulary who sparked the town into action.

"FIRE AT THE STEAM PACKET HOTEL..." The Post office clock was set ringing vigorously, and was soon after accompanied by the hurried chimes of the bells of the Church of England and the public school; while several of the residents rushed frantically about the streets shouting 'fire'. The combined effect of the commotion thus produced was to bring together a number of volunteers who at once energetically set to work with buckets of water obtained from the nearest tanks to extinguish the flames, which threw a lurid glare over the City Bank, the Post office and the adjacent buildings...preparations were made for pulling down intervening structures (adjoining shops), if necessary, to save more valuable ones."

Kiama Independent
November 13, 1885

The fire was later found to have originated in the hayloft, over the stable. A total £100 in damage was caused but the premises was thankfully insured.

Larrikinism

Larrikinism continued to vex the minds of the local townsfolk, particularly the editor of the *Kiama Independent* who appeared to find new ways of expressing his concern each New Year's eve when the problem was especially rife. To follow is a personality profile of this "genus known as larrikin", just in case readers had trouble spotting them in a crowd.

"Watch-night in Kiama...If there is a day, or rather a night, in the calendar which requires re-christening, it is the last night of the expiring year. 'Watch-night' is an expressive term, but it has become expressive in a sense quite distinct from all religious associations. It is watch-night for the genus known as larrikin, when all the mischievous little plots his dull wits have been able to concoct are enacted, provided always that too much personal risk is not involved. Your pure bred larrikin is gregarious. He believes in the co-operative principle; in the story of the bundle of sticks and the doctrine that unity is strength. He is ready for any piece of devilment that can be accomplished without risk of personal detection, but he will take none of the responsibility for after the consequences if he can help it."

Kiama Independent
January 5, 1886

Feminism

In March, 1886, the *Independent* provided a respectful insight into the progress of the women's movement and their gradual "invasion" of a once forbidden domain. It is with interest that we learn some women have

even proved themselves capable of handling the mental strain attached to such professions as clerks and secretaries!

"...Step by step, we may expect women to invade the domain hitherto so long barred against the sex and to enter a practical protest against the old-fashioned notions which limited women's sphere of usefulness to the domestic duties of the household, and the education of the young. The 'softer sex' (to use a somewhat hackneyed and ignominious expression), have in some instances proved their fitness for professions, and what are usually called the lighter occupations of life, such as those of clerks, secretaries, amanuenses, shorthand writers, literary workers, typesetters and many situations requiring more mental than physical labour. There is a wide field for female labour, and it seems to be expanding rather than contracting."

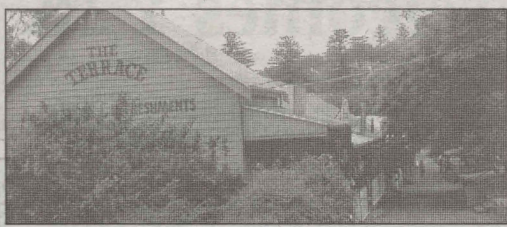
Kiama Independent
March 12, 1886

But while the colonial mind might have entertained thoughts of women entering the workplace, her presence on the sports field was judged as simply too outlandish.

This opinion was reiterated even after reports that several women in Sydney had taken up the "ancient game of cricket".

"...We have rather grave doubts about the female taste being educated to a just appreciation of the game. Within our observation, most ladies on the rapid approach of a cricket ball manifest much the same symptoms as those usually accompanying the approach of a mouse... cricket is decidedly unfeminine, and is not likely to be revolutionised by the few bold feminine spirits whose recent performance is so highly commended by our Sydney contemporary."

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.

Futuro Pastimes - 4232 2594

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

Kiama Artisan Trading - 4232 4608

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

Kiama Sidewalk Confectionery Cottage - 4232 1388

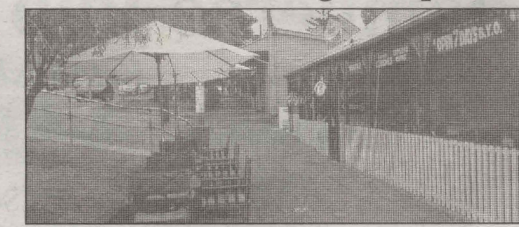
Specialising in quality confectionery, gourmet teas, coffees, cordials, jams, mustards, sauces, honey and gift boxes, Australian crafts, balloons and bonais.

Merry-Go-Round Clothing Co. - 4232 1233

Large range of imported and top Australian New and Near New Designer labels by Chanel, DKNY, Saba, Calvin Klein, Moschino, Charlie Brown, Lisa Ho, George Gross, Armani. Designer labels at a fraction of the cost. Open 7 Days.

Pieces of Dreams - 4232 3022

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



Pots of Taste - 4232 1149

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

Ritz Griz New Mexican Grill - 4232 1853

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

Sparkle & Hide - 4233 1700

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

Terrace Book Shop - 4232 3155

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

Terrace Glory Box - 4232 1147

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

The Terrace Gift Shoppe - 4232 1072

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

53080

'Stealing' electricity

By 1886, the extraordinary talents of Thomas Edison and his work with electricity were known throughout the world. With the introduction of this revolutionary invention, however, came a new crime - that of stealing electricity.

"The leakage to earth of the underground leads of the Edison electric lighting system, from the central lighting station in New York, US, is said to be about three amperes, the tension being 110 volts. It was found numerous unprincipled persons have availed themselves of the opportunity to steal electricity - an offence surely unknown to statute law - and use it for operating motors, and for induction coils. The method of filching electricity was by boring through the open pipe surrounding the insulation compound and then further into one of the copper leads."

Kiama Independent
March 5, 1886

Kiama's men go to war

Australia was just three years shy of its 100th anniversary when, in 1885, it was called up for military service for the first time - to assist England with the war in the Sudan, Africa. As the *Evening News* observed:

"...young Australia is at last fairly embarked on the stormy sea of intercolonial strife. For the first time in her history she is to try the terrible hazards of war. As is only natural on such a momentous occasion, much patriotism, loyalty and enthusiasm have been shown, and the maiden sword of New South Wales has been girded."

After years of drill practice and training, the men of Kiama's own volunteer force were called upon to assist. Having followed progress reports on the African tension, the local contingent were ready for action by the time the following ominous report appeared in the *Independent* on February 17, 1885.

"THE WAR IN THE SOUDAN (Sudan) KIAMA VOLUNTEERS OFFER THEIR SERVICES"

On Friday last, Captain Honey of the Kiama Volunteer Corps, received the following telegram from the Adjutant of the 2nd Regiment, Volunteer Infantry, Sydney:-

"Ascertain from your company tomorrow the number desirous of enrolling for service in Africa."

Captain Honey called his men together and submitted the request for their consideration, with the response (signed by five officers and 20 privates) being that a Kiama contingent was ready to assist.

Just days later, eight men embarked for Sydney on the ss *Illawarra*, they being: James Walker, John Walker, Thomas Newing, James Armstrong, Robert Weir, William Arnold, Robert Jervis and John P Eppell.

The volunteers were farewelled in true heroes' fashion, the town turning out at Kiama Harbour to cheer them off. One could only imagine the mixed emotions experienced as these young men - all aged 21 years or thereabouts - marched off to war, their chests swelled proudly in their "red-coats".

"KIAMA VOLUNTEERS FOR THE SOUDAN * EXCITEMENT AT THE WHARF - TOUCHING FAREWELL"

The excitement which has prevailed in town all this week consequent upon the offer of troops for service in the Soudan made by the NSW Government, and more particularly in consequence of a number of the Kiama Corps of volunteers having offered their services... They fell into rank in front of the volunteer officer, from whence they marched to the wharf, headed by the Kiama Brass Band, to the tune of some martial airs. The quay was crowded to give a hearty farewell to our young volunteers who have dared to face the climate and dangers of the Soudan for the honour of their country; and as the steamer left the wharf, where it would seem the whole of Kiama were congregated, cheers upon cheers rose from the assembled crowd. There were many wet eyes and aching hearts among that gathering, even though the number of volunteers was so few, but the hearts of their sisters, their mothers and their sweethearts went out to these dear boys who were going to a foreign



The Kiama Volunteer Corps 2nd Regiment are pictured at camp in the 1880s. Sgt Henry H Honey, of Riversdale, is pictured seated, third from right. PHOTO: Courtesy Geoff Honey Collection.

land - perhaps never to return any more."

Kiama Independent
February 20, 1885

On arrival in Sydney, the volunteers underwent a medical examination and preparatory military training before leaving for Africa on the *Iberia* on March 3. The examination proved disappointing for one volunteer - James Walker, who did not pass the testing process and was returned home.

As if the departing NSW troops did not have enough to contend, their ship had barely left local shores when it collided with a passenger ship in Sydney Harbour, killing two women and a child.

Four months later, the soldiers returned home safely from the Egyptian campaign - all with the exception of one - Robert Weir - who perished at Suakim, becoming the first Australian to die in action. It appears Mr Weir was not killed in "in the din of battle", but fell victim to "the pestilence of that sultry clime".

The contingent was welcomed home with a town picnic attended by more than 800 proud citizens who did their best to celebrate, despite the dark "cloud" which prevailed over the loss of Mr Weir.

"OUR SOUDAN HEROES-...And the public did celebrate the occasion in a thoroughly earnest manner - the day was a day of rejoicing on which it would appear every man, woman and child in the neighbourhood turned out to give practical demonstration to their joy at the return of the men and to their appreciation of the services they had rendered in the representation of Kiama in the distant battlefield. The town was in holiday attire - the places of business were all closed, and from many a flagstaff and many a house-top in town waved bright banners in recognition of the occasion."

Kiama Independent
July 7, 1885

It appears from the report that the Soudanese campaign had been marred by incompetence on the part of the British troops and this fact was echoed by soldiers throughout the colony. Such unhappiness, however, did not dampen the men's willingness to enlist for future campaigns.

"...The men satisfied all enquirers to the best of their ability - each man related his tale in his own humble way, and as he told of the experiences of the voyage, his intercourse with the English and Indian soldiers and the Arabs, his hair-breadth escapes and his dreary marches in the desert, over the putrid remains of hundreds of Arabs, every word was caught up by eager listeners. The men speak in anything but a complimentary way of the conduct of the officers under whose charge they were placed, and relate

instances of utter incapacity, their over-officiousness and bungling... Considering the hardships our boys have passed through, they look remarkably well; their faces and hands bear the signs of toil and exposure to the burning sun; they are all brave, good-natured fellows and express themselves ready to enter into another similar campaign."

At a tea meeting attended by 750, commander of the volunteers corps Captain Thomas Honey, summed up the feeling of the day:-

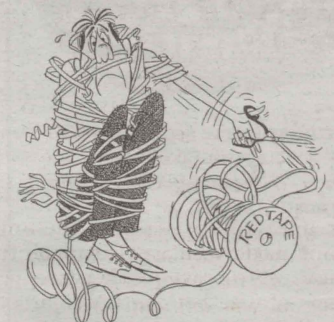
"Brave and worthy comrades, words cannot express the pleasure we feel in welcoming you back to Kiama and meeting you here today to assure you of our high appreciation of the true and noble patriotic spirit which prompted you to leave this sunny and peaceful land, home comforts and affectionate family members, to brave the dangers of war and hear the hardships which inevitably fell to the lot of those who go forth to fight for their country's cause in a foreign land."

Private John Walker then stepped up, thanking the public for their support and recounting the corp's experiences. From the following item, it is interesting to note the response of the British to the Australians' arrival.

"...When we got on board the *Iberia*, and began to move slowly down the harbour, it was then that we realised we were fairly on our way to the seat of war... After arriving in camp, the contingent was formed in three sides of a square and we were addressed by General Graham, who told us that we should have the earliest opportunity of a brush with the Arabs... It was a curious fact that when we arrived the Englishmen expected to see a body of black men, like the Indian Contingent. They were surprised to find that we were white, like themselves and asked us whether there was many more like us in Australia. They soon came to learn, however, that we were the descendants of Britains and that there were plenty more like us in Australia... The whole army comprised 9000 rank and file, about 3000 camels, 2000 mules and 5000 camp followers... About 10 o'clock we arrived at Baker's Zareba. Here were scenes of the wildest confusion, the desert was literally strewn with the dead bodies of the brave fellows who had taken part in the battle of but eight days before... the scene was simply horrible... When we received orders to embark for Australia, we received them with joy, although we felt sad to think that we were leaving our comrade, poor Robert Weir, behind us and whose death cast a

gloom over the whole contingent as he was well liked by all in the regiment; but before we left we placed a monument over his grave to mark the spot where he now lies at rest."

REAL ESTATE RED TAPE AND THE G.S.T. GETTING YOU DOWN?



COME IN AND TALK TO US
FOR ANY AND ALL YOUR CONCERNS
OBLIGATION FREE

Ray White

REAL ESTATE www.raywhite.net

102 Terralong St. 4232 4222

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

JULY ENTERTAINMENT

Sat. 1st July.....WOODY
Wed. 5th July.....KID'S DISCO 7.30-9.30pm
Sat. 8th July.....ABRA CADABRA
Wed. 12th July.....KID'S DISCO 7.30-9.30pm
Sat. 15th July.....TUMEKE
Fri. 21st July.....CARGO
Sat. 22nd July.....QUINNI
Sat. 29th July.....HEART OF SOUL



**HIGH SEA
RESTAURANT**

• RESTAURANT OPEN SEVEN DAYS
• ALL WELCOME •

Bistro Open 7 days from 12-2pm and
Friday nights 6-8pm

CLUB BUS NOW AVAILABLE

Please phone the club for more information on 4234 1414

Visitors must be in company of a member or be a member of a registered club.

FROM YESTERYEAR TO TODAY



A. MITCHELL

Still moving your family through the years
Serving the South Coast since 1949

**LOCAL & LONG DISTANCE
REMOVAL SPECIALISTS**

4232 1146 Fax 4232 3238

mitchells@shoal.net.au - 7 Marks Street, Kiama

53087

55401

55406

Community unites for the Kia

Several calls had been made for the establishment of a local hospital over the years but all had gone unmet. This was due, in part, to cottage hospitals being largely regarded as institutions for the poor - for those who could not afford the cost of private nursing, in their own homes.

Unfortunately, as the government was only willing to part-fund such institutions, the balance had to be met by the community. But those who required the institution could not afford the outlay. Many well-to-do citizens, meantime, were reluctant to become involved, they believing the hospital to be unnecessary.

By March, 1886, however, the need for a hospital was considered essential. The opening of local industries such as the stone trade and the works being undertaken on the Kiama section of the Illawarra Railway line, had led to a high accident rate (two to three accidents per week), resulting in a pressing need for a medical centre.

But, once the community had recognised the need for such a facility, a new problem loomed in that a debilitating drought had depressed the local economy, rendering most ratepayers and landholders unable to assist.

Nevertheless, a public meeting was held in the Kiama Temperance Hall in March, 1886, to discuss the "wisdom" of the project. The meeting was chaired by Kiama Mayor George Somerville, and opened with the reading of a telegram from Mr James Marks who indicated that both he and Mrs John Marks would be willing to donate 100 guineas each to the project. A letter from Dr HJ Tarrant was then read, he reaffirming a previous offer of £50 to the hospital building fund, together with assistance in providing "plans of modern hospitals" and their associated costs.

The Rev J Done moved that: "It is desirable and has become necessary to establish a cottage hospital in Kiama". Robert Marks seconded the motion, saying that the movement, was "a grand and noble one, purely unselfish, purely benevolent, promoting the social and physical welfare of suffering humanity". He said that while many people had indicated their inability to assist with funding, the undertaking was not one that could be accomplished "in a day or two", in any case.

He suggested that, in the meantime, the hospital could be commenced in a rented premises. Rev Done's motion that a cottage hospital be established was put to vote and carried unanimously. Mr GK Waldron then moved that "A preliminary provisional committee be appointed, such committee to consist of Dr Lacey, Messrs Pike, N Hindmarsh, R Kendall, S Major, G Bullen, Stephenson, Curtis, P Marks, Bennett, W Monie, D Finlayson, GK Waldron, the clergymen of the town, with power to add to their number".

Mr Waldron said that, whether wealthy or poor, everyone in the community had the potential to offer something to the project. His stance was continued by Mr A Yates who committed £50 to the project. Nothing, he felt, had a stronger claim on his sympathies than the "sick poor".

In supporting the case, George Bullen submitted the example of a Bombo man who "in the cottage home of a Christian family" was restored to good health. Mr Bullen asked what might have happened to this man had he been left to convalesce in his own home - "a small, miserable tent".

Rev RW Orton said the movement had his heartiest sympathy, hospitals being "a distinguished characteristic of Christian lands". The poor, he said, were to be pitied, the sick poor more so. For these and for the class of labourers who "might almost be said to be homeless, the cottage hospital would be a great boon".

At a follow-up meeting in May, Dr Tarrant MLA presented plans for a



The Kiama Cottage Hospital - Kiama's first hospital which was built in Barney Street and officially

hospital which he had personally drawn in consultation with two medical colleagues. The plans involved a simple design which accommodated nine patients. At the front was the matron's room with two windows looking on to two wards - one for men and the other for women. The main entrance was at the side, through a porch and ante-room which would be used as a boardroom, operating room and surgery.

Dr Tarrant said that before the government provided any subsidy, the community must first submit their plans for approval to the government medical advisor and inspector of charities. The meeting was told that, to date, subscriptions of £414 had been promised and this would be met pound for pound by the government. The Colonial Secretary had also committed a special grant of £250 towards the cost of construction.

Three offers of land were then presented to the meeting. Mr Nesbitt Hindmarsh offered a site in Hothersall Street, near Barney Street, on 21 years lease at £6 per annum, with the option to purchase at any time. Mr Robert Hindmarsh offered his own premises for £1000, half cash and the balance to remain

on the property for two years at 6 percent interest. A third offer was made by John Honey of any block of his land opposite Dr Lacey's (in the vicinity of Thompson Street, Kiama) at £4 per foot.

Dr Tarrant said that the government would not permit a hospital to be built on a leasehold site, adding that the building should preferably be located "a little way into the suburbs", away from the centre of town. Upon inspection, he found the property offered by Mr Hindmarsh to be "admirably situated". He believed that, with an immediate start on the project, the hospital could be built within two months.

A search was then made of Mr Hindmarsh, who was not present at the meeting, to determine if "he might be inclined to give the site". The search was unsuccessful.

Dr Tarrant said that a temporary surgery should be established in a local boarding house for the treatment of accidents until the hospital was built.

A building committee of nine was proposed to be elected to oversee the construction project, they being representative of the Kiama, Jamberoo, Gerringong and Shellharbour areas. Suggestions included Mr Miller on

behalf of Gerringong, Mr Marks on behalf of Jamberoo and Mr Dunster, of Shellharbour.

Within the month, it was reported that the collection of subscriptions for the project was progressing well and this included a £200 donation from David Berry Esq, of the Coolangatta Estate. It was to become the largest gift donated to the cause.

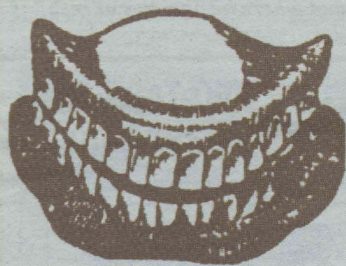
"... (David Berry's) name, for many a long year, has been associated with every good and charitable cause, especially in his own district, and whose ready help has always been available in cases of poverty and distress."

Kiama Independent
June 1, 1886

In July, 1886, the hospital plans were approved by the Government for construction on a 2.5 acre site in Barney Street. The block had been donated by Joseph Pike at the "moderate price" of £100 per acre (total of £250), together with a £75 donation to the cause. (Sadly, Mr Pike died before he could see the hospital officially opened - see Obituaries)

Fundraising was bolstered when subscription lists were opened in both the local stone quarries and, in September, by Messrs Monie & Co - contractors of the No 4 Section of the

PAINLESS DENTISTRY GUARANTEED



Atmospheric suction sets from £5 5s

Messrs Hollway & Carter's Improved Artificial Teeth are lightest, strongest, most economical and most durable that can be secured, and are securely retained in the mouth without springs, wires, or cumbersome plates. Also for Efficacy, Utility, Speech, masticulation and the restoration of the original, youthful appearance of the features, they are unrivalled.

Messrs Hollway & Carter
Dentists, 223 Elizabeth
Street, Sydney (near Hyde
Park)

Kiama Independent
July 10, 1888

This supplement proudly brought to you by the
WESTON FAMILY
Publishers of the *Kiama Independent* since 1863

**Kiama
Independent**

Your local news and sport for the past 137 years

Kiama Cottage Hospital project



opened on May 21, 1887.

lawarra Railway line. Aside from contributing a substantial amount themselves, the men encouraged their employees to do likewise. A total of £26 was raised.

Laying of the foundation stone

Despite its shaky beginnings, the Kiama Cottage Hospital grew to become the most significant community project the town had ever seen. While the opening of both the Kiama Harbour and Pioneer Butter Factory was groundbreaking, it did not capture the hearts of the greater community like that of the hospital. It represented all cross-sections of the town - from the wealthy to the poor - who offered whatever they could to bring it to fruition.

The importance of the project was evidenced in the laying of the foundation stone on September 22, 1886, when the day was declared a half holiday. Public buildings were decorated with bunting and a procession of various friendly societies was led through the town by the Kiama Brass Band and supported by the lawarra Cavalry.

From the Kiama Courthouse, the procession undertook the strenuous journey up Terralong and Hothersall

Streets to the hospital site at the west end of Barney Street. Here, 600 eager spectators jostled for position in and around the timber framework which had been erected by contractors, Anderson & Taylor (responsible for the construction of Kiama Lighthouse).

The foundation stone was officially laid by Dr Tarrant who, on addressing the gathering, was moved to recite the words of a favourite poet:

*"A thing of beauty and a joy forever,
It's loveliness increases; it will never*

Sink into nothingness."

Dr Tarrant commented on the breathtaking view afforded by the site, saying that it was especially calculated to "exercise a healthful effect on convalescent patients". Most importantly, he acknowledged the significance of the project to the community.

"...He congratulated all connected with the hospital movement, and trusted that the enthusiasm which had brought the undertaking to its present stage would not be allowed to pall, but that each and all would identify themselves with an institution calculated to evolve the best feelings of our nature - the feelings of charity. He was one of those who admired the small offerings of the poor, given from the best motives, and a kind and liberal heart."

Kiama Independent
September 24, 1886

Dr Tarrant added that local residents had the means at their disposal to "make the Kiama hospital for all time to come a credit to themselves and a general benefit to the community". (His words proved prophetic as, to this day, Kiama Hospital holds an emotional place in the hearts of local residents and its continued

existence - in Bonaira Street - is indeed a credit to the tenacity of its citizens.)

The foundation stone was laid as part of a masonic ceremony, Dr Tarrant also holding the title of Grand Master of Freemasons of NSW.

"... (He) sprinkled the stone with wheat, indicating that we should impart a portion of our bread to feed the hungry. Wine was poured on the stone as an emblem of gladness, reminding us to send a cup of wine to cheer the heart of the sorrowful. Oil was poured out as an emblem of consolation, reminding us to pour the healing oil or our consolation into the wounds caused by sickness and affliction."

James Marks was then called on to make an address, he and his family representing one of the largest subscribers to the project. He asked to become enrolled as an annual subscriber of five guineas.

Dr Tarrant announced that, to date, £1000 pounds had been raised for the project and this, supplemented by £1000 from the Government, would be sufficient to not only complete the building, but furnish it. Ongoing subscriptions by the patients and monies raised through the efforts and sympathies of "the refined, kind, humane ladies" of the town, was expected to keep the institution financially viable.

According to Samuel Marks, the town would have to "depend on the ladies more in the future than they had in the past, and he had not the slightest doubt that with their assistance the institution would go on progressing and would be a model for the colony". Ornamental trees were also planted on the grounds to mark the occasion.

Fire in the men's 'closet'

Over the ensuing 12 months, from the point of the hospital's opening, the *Kiama Independent* chronicled almost every death that took place at the institution, as well as several accidents and a coronial inquest touching the death of three quarry workers killed at Bombo in 1888.

In September, 1888, however, a "happening" of a different nature occurred when the hospital caught fire.

It appears the mini inferno was ignited after a patient tried to sneak a quiet cigarette in the hospital toilet.

"KIAMA HOSPITAL - It was reported in town on Sunday that there had been a fire in one of the

wards of the above institution on Saturday and that one of the beds and bedclothes had been partially destroyed in consequence. On making enquiries we have ascertained that a man named G Stanley struck a match in the w.c. (water closet) attached to the male ward... a bag of paper hung at the door was set on fire, and filled the ward with smoke, which somewhat frightened the patients, and charred the inside of the door.

The superintendent managed with a good supply of water to quickly put the fire out, and Stanley was at once discharged."

Kiama Independent
September 4, 1888

Kiama Cottage Hospital officially opened

Kiama Cottage Hospital was formally opened by Dr HJ Tarrant Esq (ex-MLA) on May 21, 1887. A public procession was to be held to mark the occasion, but recent heavy rains had left the roads in a dreadful state, causing the procession to be abandoned.

The Kiama Brass Band was undeterred, though, and led a small band of merry followers in a march up Shoalhaven, Bong Bong and Hothersall Streets to the hospital where 300 people were gathered.

At the opening it was announced that the hospital cost £2198 to build - £1015 being met by public donations and the same amount matched by the Government. Thanks was given "the ladies of the district for collecting and making up the home linen", together with the fundraising efforts of local community organisations.

Mr Robert Miller commended the project saying that, with the advance of civilisation, the erection of such an institution was absolutely necessary "as disease of one kind or other was sure to visit largely populated towns".

During the speeches, references were made to the typhoid which was sweeping the town. Rev J Wilson spoke of residents having to use a creek for their water which was polluted and the consequence was "sickness and disease".

Dr Tarrant said that the hospital had been built "on scientific and the most modern sanitary principles" and he looked on it as one of the best institutions of its kind in NSW.

Indeed, the plans of the hospital were considered so ground-breaking that they had been photographed for the perusal of any

other district desiring such a facility.

Dr Tarrant said that he had experienced great difficulty in treating cases in the district during his residence, having in many cases to "carry beef-tea in his pocket to his patients".

He also regretted that the town had been "visited by the epidemic", adding that the means of preventing such visitations lay in a proper system of sewerage and water supply.

"...The speaker then declared the hospital open for the reception of patients, which was now supplied with good nurses and suggested that the chairman at once open a subscription list for the receipt of annual subscriptions for the maintenance of the institution."

Kiama Independent
May 24, 1887

On June 7, 1887, the *Independent* reported the first death to occur at the hospital - that of Mr Jackson, of the Pheasant Ground, a man who was new to the district.

The cause of death was typhoid. Three other deaths soon followed, each dying of the same illness.

At this time, a canvass was made of the Kiama Municipal district to seek annual subscriptions to ensure ongoing finance for the hospital.

The churches, meantime, assisted with the establishment of a campaign known as "Hospital Sunday" when a special hat was passed around for the institution.

In November, 1887, the total funds collected through this appeal was between £50 and £60. Money was also raised by well-attended "Plain and Fancy Dress Balls".

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

Harbourside
BRIGHTON
RESTAURANT



**EARLY BIRD
SPECIAL RETURNS**

*"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...*



FROM JUNE 1 - MONDAY TO FRIDAY

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

Sport, leisure & religion

Sport, Entertainment & Leisure

In April, 1885, locals were treated to a display of athletic prowess, by Scotsman, Donald Dinnie, the "Champion Athlete of the World". Like Azella, the champion "pedestrienne" who visited in 1880, Mr Dinnie performed before a large gathering at the Temperance Hall, displaying various feats of strength and skill.

One can almost imagine being in the audience - watching not only Mr Dinnie's performance and a display of Graeco-Roman wrestling, but the charming entertainment provided at intervals by the local talent.

"CHAMPION ATHLETIC ENTERTAINMENT...Mr Dinnie is now nearly 48 years of age... his height is 6ft 1in, and his weight 220lbs, or within four pounds of 16 stone. For the last 20 years he has held the championship as the best all-round athlete in the world... One of his greatest feats (to our mind), which he performed the other night, was his manipulation of the two-handed dumbbell weighing 250lbs. This he raised above his head, holding it there in one hand, holding it then in both hands, he knelt, sat down and then lay down, placing the ponderous weight over his head and on to the floor... Various money prizes were offered to any one of the audience who could repeat or even approach Mr Dinnie's performances. One was an offer of £500 to anyone who could hold the dumbbell straight from the shoulder for 15 seconds; but there were no competitors... The models in wrestling, which Messrs Dinnie and Co illustrated in person, were highly interesting, exemplifying the Graeco-Roman style as practised by the Roman gladiators... During the intervals between the various performances, little Pauline and Miss Ida McDonald kept the company well entertained by their dancing which was greatly applauded. Pauline's sailor's



A busy scene in Terralong Street ~1883~

A busy scene in Kiama's Terralong Street in about 1883. The Kiama saleyards (foreground) were then located at the foot of Terralong Street.

Note the gas lamp on the Manning Street corner at the Kiama Postal and Telegraphic Office.

hornpipe, Miss McDonald's sword dance or Gillie Callum and her American sand jig and skipping rope dances were highly appreciated. Mr M Carlo's execution on the violin also deserves very favourable notice."

Kiama Independent
April 14, 1885

The township was treated to some high culture in July, 1885, when the Philharmonic Society of Wollongong performed in concert - again in the Temperance Hall. The concert was "a grand success" while the 26 performers distinguished themselves not only as a group, but in solos, duets and trios. Items on the program included *Death of Nelson*, *We'd Better Bide A Wee*, *Alice! Where Art Thou*, *Our Jack's Come Home Today* and *Angels Listen When She Speaks*.

The Kiama Brass Band continued to be a fine representation of the area's musical talents. In November, 1885, as the weather began to improve, the band took to providing afternoon concerts at the "public reserve in Terralong Street" (Hindmarsh Park), suggesting that the previously pestilent conditions of the area had been cleared and had begun to assume the role it has long since been associated.

The Independent urged public support for the band, saying that:

"...Music has ever been one of the handmaids of civilisation. Perhaps nothing is better calculated than the divine art to exorcise the spirit of larrikinism, lawlessness and grovelling excesses or, in other words, elevate the mental and moral character as well as to relieve the monotony of everyday life."

"Our Boys" Football Club

A historic moment in the history of Gerringong is witnessed with the formation in 1887 of the 'Our Boys' football club. (A Kiama club was formed about the same time.)

"THE newly formed football club at Gerringong, 'Our Boys', intends to make a hard struggle for supremacy during the coming season. Last Saturday, fully 30 members turned out for practice. A good scratch match was indulged in; the play bringing to light some new members who will be acquisitions to the club. All proved themselves to be in good condition, playing the game with skill - a fact which augurs well for the future of 'Our Boys' club. The rules they have adopted to play under are the Australian association rules."

Kiama Independent
June 7, 1887

Kiama Showground

The advance of sporting and leisure pursuits was given a tremendous boost in 1888 when Kiama Council resumed land adjoining Christ Church to create a "showground" and sportsfield. The Kiama Athletic Club celebrated the opening of the ground in March with a gala day for residents of the district, much to the appreciation of the Independent.

"...There is something noble and enervating in sports of this description which do not encourage even a taint of brutality or barbarism, such as is connected with a favourite sport in a great many places (boxing)."

Community & Religion

The Salvation Army - formed in 1865 - was a force in the community by the 1880s, although it did not enjoy the same high regard as it does today. Reports suggest that the Army was met with a degree of public hostility in the early days and protest scuffles were connected with their performances.

In April, 1885, Kiama was visited by Marshall Booth, son of General Booth, the founder of the Army, who arrived to encourage a newly-formed local chapter of the corp. He was accompanied by the Army staff band and a group of singers called the "Happy Family". The first Salvation Army tea meeting or "tea fight" held in Kiama took place at the Temperance Hall.

"...(The meeting) was largely attended by all classes who appeared to enjoy themselves almost as heartily as one would be led to believe, from the shouting and merry voices, the Salvationists did. After tea, the 'Army', led by the Marshall, marched in procession through the streets to the music of the staff band, and upon their return the hall was crowded in every part."

Kiama Independent
April 14, 1885

Three follow-up meetings were held at Kiama, followed by one in the Protestant Hall at Jamberoo. While each of these meetings was packed to capacity, the support was not representative of the entire community.

In November, 1885, the Independent reported that an Army meeting in Kiama was disrupted when an "ill-bred and evil disposed person" brought "some foul, foetid matter", believed to be part of the remains of a dog, into the Temperance Hall as a display of contempt for the organisation. On New Year's Eve 1886, a group of Salvation Army choristers were pelted with eggs.

A Sydney magistrate, meantime, said that he had difficulty restraining himself "from personally attacking the Salvation Army for giving one of their characterised performances in front of a sick person's house".

Despite obvious discord from some sections of the community, support for the Salvation Army was such that a barracks was built in Shoalhaven Street, Kiama, in 1888, opposite the Kiama Independent office. The building, which was officially opened in September, 1888, by Major Jefferies, was a wooden structure 27ft by 56ft, which could seat 350 people comfortably and cost £750 to build.

Thankfully, the activities of the Church of England Sabbath School at Jamberoo was better received.

"LAST Wednesday, the annual festival in connection with the Church of England Sabbath School passed off in Miss Tate's paddock. The day was a lovely bright one, and some 150 adults and 200 children put in an appearance."

Kiama Independent
November 29, 1887

Aboriginal place names

MOST local place names in Kiama Municipality owe their origins to the Aboriginal language and, throughout time, different versions of the meanings of these names have come to light. The following is a documented history of the local place names, according to various authors.

KIAMA: Mysterious spirit
JAMBEROO: A track
GERRINGONG: A water place
BOMBO: Thunder
JERRARA: Water falling
TOOLIJOOA: Home of emus
MINNAMURRA: Sheltered camping ground
Tyrell, James:

Australian Aboriginal Place Names
*** **

KIAMA: The Creator
JAMBEROO: A Track
GERRINGONG: Fearful
BOMBO: Thumbon, a great warrior
TOOLIJOOA: Place of emus
MINNAMURRA: Lots of fish
Martin, AE: 1000 Place Names in NSW, 1943
*** **

KIERAMA: Place where the sea makes a noise
KIAREMIA: Fish in plenty here
MINNAMURRA: Plenty of fish
Symonds, WK Mrs: Nomenclature of NSW (Lone Hand 1914)
*** **

KIAMA: Plenty of food; good fishing ground
JAMBEROO: Track
GERRINGONG: Place of peril
BOMBO: Thunder
JERRARA: Haunt of eels
TOOLIJOOA: Home of emus
MINNAMURRA: Plenty of fish
McCarthy, FD: NSW Aboriginal Place Names, 1952
*** **

"Always held here on the authority of the early aborigines that the name, Kiama, is from two aboriginal names Kiar-mai which signified 'a fertile district'. Morton, MF to the Sydney Morning Herald, 1921

KIAMA SPORTS & LEISURE WEAR

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



Larry & Gail Beringer
Sports and Leisure Wear
Established January 2000

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

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



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

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

An industry forged in rock

AS burly pioneer John Carson trekked his way through a track of dense rainforest just west of Kiama township in 1855, he must have wondered whether such a jungle of twisted vines and trees could ever be conquered.

Commissioned by the Government to forge New South Wales' first blue metal quarry and armed with just a hammer, chisel and case of black powder, the expanse of rocky hills would have presented a formidable sight for the then 22-year-old.

But conquer it he did with an army of quarry men which grew from three to 300 and led to his establishing one of Kiama's first successful businesses on the site now known as the Kiama Sports Complex.

Allen Carson, 75, said that his great uncle John left his home in County Antrim, Northern Ireland, during a crippling depression in 1855 to seek his fortune in Australia. His ambition was fuelled by the knowledge that his uncles, John and James Colley (Kiama's first Mayor), had successfully made the journey from Antrim some 15 years earlier.

Allen said that, at the time of John's arrival in Sydney, the Government was battling a problem with its local roads.

"The roads, footpaths and waterfronts were paved with sandstone, it being the only rock available in the area," Allen said. "Such roads were continually worn down by the iron-shod wheel rims of bullock drays, carts and sulkies causing endless problems for the Government."

Allen said that the Government learned of John's skills as a stonemason and commissioned him to open a blue metal (basalt) quarry in Kiama.

"The quality of basalt in Kiama was high and presented a more workable road surface," he said.

He said that John, who stood at a tremendous 7ft. 2 inches tall, scouted the Kiama area with the assistance of the Colley brothers who had developed a good knowledge of the local geography.

"John came to a cliff face at Pike's Ridge and set up a station on the site of the current Blue Haven Retirement Village," Allen said. "He and two other stonemasons from Sydney then began boring their way into the cliff."

"They worked in sets of three using sledgehammers and a chisel - one man held the chisel while the other two took turns at striking the head.

"On each strike the man holding the chisel would turn it a quarter revolution and they continued in this fashion until the hole was deep enough to 'load' (blow out)."

Allen said that gelignite was yet to be invented and black powder, found in firecrackers, was used to blow the hole.

He said that, all the while, the men had to ensure their drilling left the cliff face no higher than 80 feet, a requirement of the Mines Department which continues today.

Allen said that the blue metal was cut into cubes (for easy laying on road surfaces) and transported to Kiama Harbour by horse and dray. He said that, in the quarry's heyday, the fleet reached 100 and a convoy of horse and

FROM Kiama's early beginnings came two great men, brothers John and William Carson who, through their exploits in the local quarry industry, played a major role in the development of the area and its character. Their achievements were not lost on young Allen Carson who sat by his grandfather William's rocking chair and listened avidly about the early days of an industry forged in rock.

The following item was first published in the Kiama Independent in 1889. Sadly, Mr Carson passed away in February this year.

dray carrying blue metal down Terralong Street was a familiar site.

He said that the blue metal was initially loaded into the hulls of small "sailer" ships ("12-15 feet long with a capacity of 5-10 ton I believe") at Black Beach because a wharf was yet to be built.

"The 'sailers' were brought as close to shore as possible and blue metal was floated to them on barges. The sailers always travelled in convoys of at least six to 12 in case one of them got into trouble."

Allen said that when the Kiama wharf was opened in 1876 it paved the way for blue metal steamships (the first being the S.S. *Tim Whiffler*) to enter the harbour.

He said that the paving of Sydney's early streets were slowly replaced by Kiama blue metal, the first of which he believed were Sussex and Campbell Streets.

Meantime, back at home, the quarry was experiencing teething problems.

"Blue metal was loaded in a wheelbarrow from the edge of the wharf to the steamship via a plank," Allen said. "Often, with the swell of the sea, the man, his wheelbarrow and the metal ended up in the drink."

"John realised this was a dangerous situation and devised a wooden shore which travelled from the wharf to the hull."

Allen said that Kiama Harbour became a hub of activity with as many as six steamships in the harbour at once while blue metal was loaded into the early hours of the morning.

He added that the quarry also developed into a business centre with many trades being represented.

"There were stonemasons who drilled the rock and spallers who cut the cubes. What was left behind was thrown to the quarry floor where labourers used knapping hammers to break down the metal for local roads," he said.

John's good fortune led to his brother, William, and his wife Jane (Allen's grandparents) travelling to Australia in 1871.

His arrival began one of the most significant and productive quarrying periods in Kiama's history.

William, 27, also a tall fellow at 7ft, opened the Brown Street quarry in 1876. He sold this quarry to Salmond and Deene in 1880 and opened a quarry on Bombo Hill at the same time as Allen's other grandfather, John Roberts, and uncle Richard Fadden, opened the Bombo Point quarry.

This quarry was sold to the Commissioners Railway (now the State Rail Authority) in 1890 and John and Richard were retained as

manager and "ganger".

Allen said that when this quarry became redundant the Government took over the quarry in Panama Street (Bombo Quarry) from Quarries Pty Ltd where it still operates today beside Boral Pty Ltd.

Meantime, John Carson sold his Havilah Place quarry to Mr McIntosh who later sold the operation to the NSW Government in 1911 when it became known as "The Old State Quarry".

In 1909 William handed the reigns of his business over to his sons Bill, Hugh, Jack and Dave who formed the business, Carson Bros Quarry Workers.

Carson Bros sold the Bombo Hill quarry in 1918 to Meddars and then operated a Barney Street quarry until its closure in 1930.

Allen said that in 1941, at the midst of WWII, Carson Bros' quarry business amalgamated with Quarries Pty Ltd, leaving its newly-formed trucking business to continue under Carson Bros' direction.

He added that, in that same year, the rigours of war saw the closure of the Havilah Place operation after the Government commandeered the quarry's blue metal boat, "Dunmore", as a minesweeper in the Pacific.

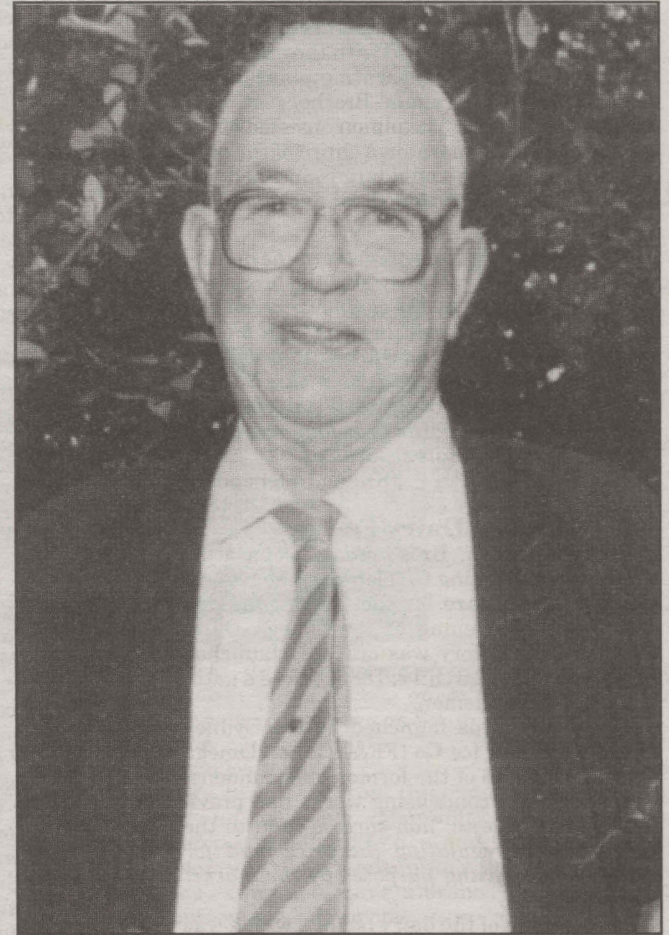
In 1951, Allen became the last employee of the Havilah Place quarry when he took on the position of caretaker for Quarries Pty Ltd. Carson Bros' trucking business was operated from this site as well as the sale of quarry waste for local roads until it was closed completely in 1954 and sold to Kiama Council.

Allen said that the quarry industry and the contribution by his family, played a major role in the development of Kiama Municipality.

"Kiama township was much the same as Jamberoo and Gerringong until the quarry men came to town. Their arrival prompted the Government to build houses and shops to accommodate them and the town began to prosper," he said.

Allen said that quarry homes were built throughout the Kiama central and Bombo area adding that many still existed today along Collins Street (the Terrace Houses) Minnamurra Street, Pheasant Point, Hindmarsh Park and Bong Bong Street.

"A tell-tale sign of an original home is the



The late Allen Carson whose forebears were major players in the development of Kiama's quarrying industry.

blue metal quarry cube foundations - there were no bricks in those days," he said.

Quarrymen strike over right to smoke

In November, 1884, the following item was reported - which obviously had "explosive" implications.

"We learn that work at the Bombo Quarries has, temporarily at least, been suspended on account of the men having struck for eight hours for liberty to smoke when they pleased. Mr Smillie, on account of the danger attending the use of fire where such quantity of explosives are employed, very properly, we think, prohibited smoking at the works except at times during the day set apart for that purpose. The men object to this, and demand the privilege of smoking when they like, but Mr Smillie refuses to comply with their demands and the result has been that a number of men have been paid off and sent about their business, and the others will shortly resume work."

Kiama Independent,
November 4, 1884



Industrious activity at the Bombo Quarry.

WINTER CLEARANCE SALE

ALL LADIES' WINTER FASHION CLOTHES

ALL MEN'S, BOYS' AND SNOW WEAR

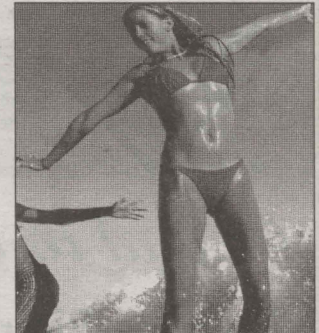
BODYBOARDS, WETSUITS AND RIPCURL WATCHES

+ MORE

40% OFF

30-50% OFF

30% OFF



SALE ENDS SOON

NATURAL NECESSITY SURF SHOP

The Wetsuit & Bodyboard Experts

115 FERN STREET, GERRINGONG (opposite Town Hall)

OPEN 7 DAYS 9am-5pm ☎ **4234 1636**

"It's definitely worth the drive"



Agriculture & Horticulture

Cream Separating plant

In August, 1885, the production of butter at Gerringong was improved with the opening of a "first-class" cream separating plant on the farm of Messrs Graham Brothers at Rose Valley, Gerringong. The plant consisted of one De Laval cream separator, a churn of the ordinary "dasher" type and a large, tin-lined vat, all of which was arranged to give "the least amount of labour".

"...The immense improvement in the quality of butter made by the separating process is recognised at once by the Sydney grocers and an increase of price readily given, and Messrs Graham Bros very first shipment proves no exception to this rule; and there can be little doubt that the days of old-style dairying are numbered, and the battle to be fought is one of factories versus private separators."

Kiama Independent
August 18, 1885

Omega Dairy Factory

While Graham Bros' cream separating plant was something to celebrate, the biggest news in agriculture for the Gerringong district was the opening of the Omega Dairy Factory. The factory was officially launched on Wednesday, March 17, 1886, before a gathering of 100 gentlemen.

The factory was launched by the Sydney Fresh Food and Ice Co (FF&I Co) on Omega retreat - the site of the former milk condensing works. The condensing works had previously folded due to "non-success" and to the "absurdity of regulating the price paid for milk for condensing purposes by the market price of butter".

The opening of the dairy factory, which was held on a fine autumn day, was begun with an "excellent dinner", prepared by Mrs Jackson and held in one of the FF&I Co's sheds, followed by adjournment to the verandah of the

manager's house where speeches were delivered.

Mr Henry H Honey, who was instrumental in the establishment of the Kiama Pioneer Butter Factory, proposed a toast of prosperity to the factory and to Mr L Mort of the FF&I Co. He remarked on the progress made in the dairying industry over the past couple of years - progress which "promised to place NSW in the foremost position amongst the dairying producers of the world".

FF&I Co Manager, Mr Mort, who was visiting from Bodalla, said that his company was "helping to create a wholesome emulation which was the soul of business, and there is room enough for all".

Mr H Pateson, also of the FF&I Co, paid tribute to Mr W Grey and the directors of the Pioneer Factory for their assistance with the establishment of the Omega operation, adding that dairy factories were now becoming indispensable. "The former preference for New Zealand butter was simply owing to the use of machinery, and surely there is sufficient brains amongst us to utilise the machinery and perhaps to improve upon it".

Joseph Weston commented on the benefits of operating the Omega factory on the co-operative principle, prompting Mr Mort to counter that, in the event that local farmers wanted to "take the factory into their own hands", the company would be "disposed to consider the proposal in a liberal spirit".

In February, 1888, such a decision was made when management of the factory passed into the hands of the farmers.

Pioneer Dairy Factory

Through speeches made at the opening of the Omega Dairy Factory, we are provided with an outline of the early days of the Pioneer Factory which were quite tenuous. Had it not been for the efforts and expertise of Henry H Honey of Riversdale, it appears the factory would have folded before witnessing even a hint of success.

In addressing the gathering, Thomas Honey (Henry's brother) said that the Pioneer Factory had succeeded against all odds and in the face of many detractors who predicted that the concern would fail. He said that this pessimism, however, only acted as



A busy scene at the Gerringong Butter Factory (Gerringong Co-op Dairy Society) - established in 1888.

an incentive to the directors. Had they failed, he said, "the whole Illawarra district might have been thrown 50 years behind".

Mr Honey said that the company had "met with reverses" and were sometimes on the verge of failure through the "inexperienced management of the separators", but it struggled on until the management of the separators was undertaken by a person "whose all was involved in their successful operation" - that person being Henry H Honey.

"After experiencing the relief from the drudgery of the dairy, no one would think of returning to the old system," Mr Honey said.

Woodstock & Waughope Butter Factories

Following on from the success of the Pioneer Dairy Factory, two butter factories were opened in Jamberoo in 1887 - one at Woodstock to accommodate the eastern farmers, and one at Waughope on the west. Mr HF Noble was manager for Waughope before he resigned and was replaced by Frank McCaffrey. W Graham was manager of Woodstock.

In November, 1887, Waughope was reported to be doing well with 1700 gallons per day being "manipulated" and expectations that this quantity would reach 2000 "when all who intend supplying commence to do so". By 1888, Waughope had 27 suppliers and Woodstock 55.

Gerringong Butter Factory

In February, 1888, a meeting was held in the Gerringong School of Arts to discuss the establishment of a dairy factory on the co-operative principle in a central position in the vicinity of Gerringong. It represented the third - and most successful - meeting of the committee with 20 farmers attending.

Mr Miller took the chair, he announcing that it was the intention of the company to take only suppliers as shareholders. Two sites for the factory, meantime, were under offer to the company; one by Mr W Hindmarsh and the other by Mr A Campbell. The latter site was chosen, it being conveniently located and suiting the Crooked River, Toolijooa and Gerringong farmers who ranged within a radius of three miles.

The share list was opened with 1045 shares being taken up by 13 persons.

Operations at the Gerringong Butter Factory commenced on Monday, September 1, 1888. The machines - which were officially switched on by Mr Josephson of the firm Waugh & Josephson - worked without a hitch. A total 440 gallons of milk, sent in by 15 suppliers, was put through the separators in a short time.

The factory consisted of four Laval separators, each with a working capacity of 150 gallons per hour. Two churns, capable of churning 500lb of butter each, were "fitted with all the latest improvements". The

building, plant and machinery cost £2000 and was voted as "the most complete in the South Coast district".

Kiama A & H Society

The Kiama Agricultural and Horticultural Society must have felt like a ping pong ball during the 1870s-80s. Having established earlier itself in Terralong Street, the society and its "show shed" was displaced in 1876 to make way for the soon-to-be-built Kiama Postal and Telegraphic Office.

The society relocated to Blowhole Point and operated successfully for the next 10 years before it was informed it must again move - this time to allow for the construction of the Kiama Lighthouse.

Wising up to the knowledge that Kiama township was an ever-expanding locality, a syndicate bought Marsden Hill at Longbrush - and two miles from the centre of Kiama on the road to Saddleback - in August 1886, where a new showground and home base was established.

Poultry & Flower Society

In April, 1888, a Poultry & Flower Society was established and the first exhibition was held in the Temperance Hall in August that year. The society had the combined effect of not only encouraging local competition, but beautifying the gardens of Kiama.

Dairy Cans

In December, 1888, we learned that the old-fashioned, galvanised factory cans were being superseded by a newer version which were provided with iron hoops and tinned by a new process, introduced by tinsmith, Mr George Bullen. An order of 100 cans was placed with Mr Bullen by the NSW Fresh Food & Ice Company.

Bachelor's guide to finding a wife

(Or The case for Feminism: Submission #11453)

"A BACHELOR, writing to the Pall Mall Gazette, thinks the best hour to judge a woman is in the morning. What is the most favourable time to see a woman in order to compose a character synopsis? Decidedly, I think, at breakfast and during the afternoon. As a general rule, if she looks well then she is in good health; if she dresses neatly, then she is tidy; and if she is full of project's for a morning's work, and executes a reasonable number, she possesses mental activity and bodily energy. Beware of the young woman who complains of being cold in the morning, who is sickly, who comes down late, who appears to be dressed hastily, who languishes a whole forenoon over a couple of letters to an absent sister or schoolfellow; no matter how bright and animated she may appear further on, avoid her. Lead her not to your suburban villa; engage no matrimonial apartments. She will not make a good wife. She will be a bore and a slattern."

Kiama Independent
March 5, 1886

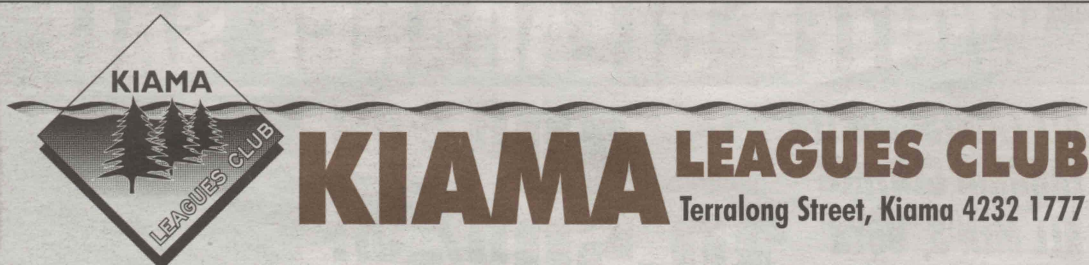
Gerringong Co-Op Dairy Society Ltd

Supplying the rural community for the past 112 years

Call in for a chat and check out our competitive prices

☎ 4234 1001
18 BELINDA STREET, GERRINGONG

55439



Proud to be part of Kiama's history

Knights Bistro - Open Daily Lunch & Dinner

Children Welcome - Blackboard Menu

Coach Tours • Travel Club • Entertainment



INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS

55402

The Cullen Family

The Cullen family, like many early settlers in the Illawarra, migrated from Northern Ireland to the Illawarra in the 1840s.

The story behind John Cullen's arrival at Jamberoo reads like a historical romance drama. For centuries the Cullen family seat was at Manor Hamilton but one of its heirs, it appears, disgraced himself by an imprudent marriage and he and his children were disowned and shared no part of the ancestral estates.

One of those children, John Cullen, with his wife Rebecca and two young sons, emigrated to Australia from Glenade, Manor Hamilton, County Leitrim in 1840.

Their third child, a daughter, was born in transit, while travelling through the Straits of Magellan and was so named Magella.

John was one of the first settlers of the Jamberoo area and farmed a land grant on Mount Johnston until an outbreak of pleuro-pneumonia wiped out most of his cattle.

John maintained an active interest in civic and religious affairs, building, at his own expense, a little church - the Free Gospel Church - where he conducted services, never taking up a collection or asking for financial help of any kind.

While it is not confirmed, there is a strong chance that John Cullen was the same 'J Cullen' who ran for the first Kiama Municipal Council in 1859, and who remained active in civic developments before his successful election to Kiama Council in 1870.

During this period, a 'John Cullen' of Jamberoo was also an active campaigner for the municipal separation of Jamberoo Ward from Kiama - he leading the charge with Henry Frederick Noble - another prominent citizen of the district.

There were seven sons and five daughters in the Cullen family, nine of whom were born on Mount Johnston.

The family became widely respected through the achievements of two sons, William Portus, who became Sir William Cullen, Chief Justice of NSW, and Christopher James, a noted farming and civic leader.

The Cullen children attended the Jamberoo Church of England Denominational School and the Jerrara Public School where William was recorded as a brilliant scholar and was recommended for a position as student teacher at the age of 13.

He also attended the Kiama National School before matriculating to the University of Sydney in 1877, winning a university scholarship.

His outstanding performance was rewarded with successive scholarships. In 1896 he was elected a Fellow of the Senate of the University, became Vice-Chancellor in 1909 and Chancellor in 1914, a position he held for 20 years.

RECIPE

Pickled Beef & Pork

"Before butcher's shops became established, farmers slaughtered their own meat. A recipe handed down through the Cullen family for pickled beef and pork - make a brine with coarse salt, saltpetre and water which is strong enough to float a small potato. A wooden vat was then used to pickle portions of the meat in brine."

Esther Cullen



CJ Cullen with family and friends at 'Taballa', Rose Valley, circa 1911. They are (standing) son Clinton, niece Nell Buchanan, son Bill Cullen, (seated front) daughter Lily, Mr and Mrs Craig with grandchild, wife Annie, CJ Cullen, daughter Ethel and son George. Taballa is still standing and has been restored.

He was a member of State Parliament for 19 years and was called to the Bar in 1883. In 1910, he was appointed Chief Justice of NSW and was knighted in 1911 and created KCMG in 1912. He also held a keen interest in natural history, compiling a study of the Kiama-Jamberoo area as it was in 1890.

Sir William, who was married to Eliza Jane, retired as Chief Justice in 1925 and Lieutenant Governor in 1930 (a position held since 1910).

Christopher James ("CJ") was educated in the local schools and followed his father's footsteps in embracing a career in farming and public affairs. This took him from Jamberoo to properties at Bellambi, Figtree, Yallah, back to Mount Johnston and, finally, *Taballa*, Rose Valley.

He married Annie Musgrave in 1879, creating a union with the well-known Illawarra family of William Love Musgrave, of Yallah.

CJ was a highly respected citizen of the Illawarra, serving on the Central Illawarra Council (taking in Unanderra and surrounds) for 15 years and was Mayor for 11 years.

At a testimonial presentation held in his honour in 1899 when he retired from the Mayoral position, he was given generous praise for his unfailing service to the community and a purse containing 56 gold sovereigns.

He was an outstanding dairy farmer and breeder of the prize-winning Milking Shorthorn cattle, later known Australian Illawarra Shorthorn (AIS).

He served the farming community through many years as president of the United Milk Suppliers Association, chairman of directors of the Unanderra Dairy Company and president of the Dapto Agricultural Society.

CJ and Annie had three sons, John William (Bill), Clinton and George, and daughters Ethel (Mrs Lauridsen), and Lily (Mrs Bert Noble).

Clinton went on to become Mayor of Kiama in 1929, at the time the Kiama Hospital was commenced.

Christopher's dedication to farming was continued by his son, John William (Bill), of *Willow Glen*, Foxground.

Bill married Esther (nee Beaver) in 1915 and they had four children, James Alexander ('Jac'), George, Christopher and Esther.

Bill established a stud of AIS cattle and was a well-known judge at shows throughout NSW. He also

sold cattle throughout Australia and exported cattle to Fiji and New Caledonia.

He was secretary on the Board of Directors for the Fresh Food and Ice Company, Foxground. (The first milk factory was established at Willow Glen before it was destroyed by fire).

When the Foxground factory closed, he became a director of the Gerringong factory and was also on the committee of the Illawarra and Southern Branch of the AIS Society, secretary of the Foxground P & C Association and secretary of the St James Church of England, Foxground.

Esther said that her father was well-known as a local vet, treating sick horses at all hours of the day and night, and treating cows for milk fever etc.

"He always wanted to train as a vet but his parents wanted him to stay on the farm. So he taught himself," Esther said.

"There were no other vets in the area so he was relied on to care for the sick animals.

"People would bring their sick horses down at mealtimes and we'd have to find another place for them at the dinner table.

"The spare bedroom was converted into a medicine room where he mixed special remedies for the animals. He really did save a lot of horses.

"He also developed a special dip for drenching horses which is now on display at the Gerringong Museum," she added.

Bill was also credited as being the first exhibitor to take a cow to the Kiama Show in a truck.

Of Bill and Esther's children, George married Dora Boles, of Albion Park, and they continued to farm Willow Glen with their five children. George, like his forebears, was interested in stud cattle and was appointed to the Royal Panel of Judges, judging at many country shows. Among his many community roles, he was a director of the Gerringong Dairy Co-operative Milk Company, Secretary of the Illawarra and Southern AIS Society and member of both the Kiama and Berry Show Societies.

Esther joined the public service as a dental nurse, working throughout NSW. 'Jac' took up a career as a journalist with the *Primary Producer* and *Land* newspapers. Chris went into industry at John Lysaghts, Port Kembla, reaching managerial status, widely known here and overseas.

George and Dora today live at Albion Park. Their daughter Margaret and son-in-law Bruce Darling operate the BP Service Station and have two daughters, Nina and Clare.

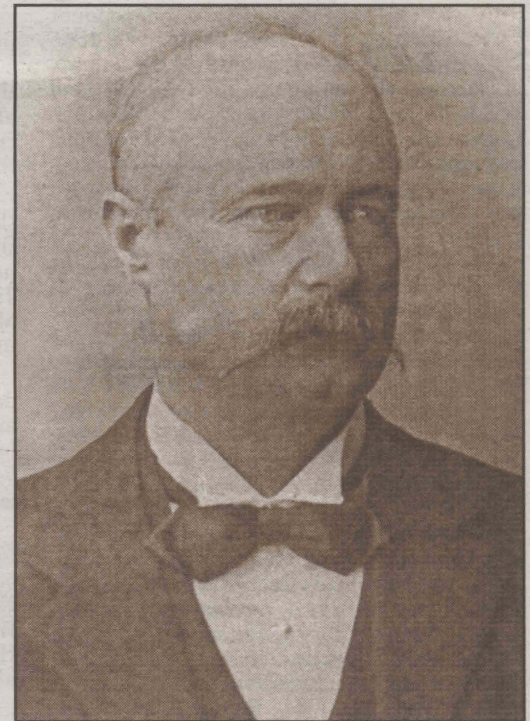
Son Peter, his wife Wendy and three children Mitchell, Andrew and Kathryn, live at Gerringong.

Peter is the fourth generation Cullen to farm in the Gerringong district. Peter farms at *Claremoy*, Toolijooa, and is a Friesian breeder - recently becoming famous for registering the one-millionth Friesian in Australia.

An interesting aside to the Cullen story is that the family's connection with Jamberoo was continued in the 1800s through the Colley family and the marriage of John Cullen's daughter, Adeline, to Hugh Colley, another well-known and respected member of the local community.

There are no Cullens currently living at Jamberoo, but the descendants of John and Rebecca living in the Illawarra continue the tradition established by their forebears by being responsible citizens, active in community affairs and successful in their vocations.

Compiled with the assistance of Christopher, George and Esther Cullen.



Christopher James Cullen (1852 - 1911).



Chris and Esther Cullen, great grandchildren of John and Rebecca Cullen - two of Jamberoo's earliest pioneers.

Accidents, quarrying, coal

Births, Deaths & Accidents

Aside from an outbreak of typhoid, the period 1885 to 1889 was largely characterised by the many horrific accidents and deaths which continued at the local quarries. The following item provides both an account of an agonising death, and evidence of the living circumstances of some of the area's poorer residents.

"BURNED TO DEATH AT BOMBO - Early on Sunday morning a melancholy case of burning, the sad details of which will be read with horror, particularly on account of the culpable negligence which it appears led to the accident, occurred at Bombo, near Kiama. The unfortunate victim was a little girl of the age of four years, named Mary Sheehy, daughter of John Sheehy, a labourer, residing with his wife and family in a tent at Bombo. An inquest was held yesterday at the scene of the fire before the District Coroner, H Connell Esq and a jury of seven. It was stated in evidence that the deceased slept in the same bed as her parents, together with two other children, and that late on Saturday night the parents went to bed in a state of intoxication, leaving a candle burning at the bedside. It is conjectured that the bed clothes came in contact with the flame, for about half-past three o'clock on Sunday morning the father was awakened by the heat of flames in his face. He immediately jumped out of bed and, finding the tent on fire, roused his wife and each rushed out with a child in their arms. The mother made an effort to rescue the remaining child, but the flames baffled her in the attempt and severely scorched her face and hands. The poor child was left a prey to the devouring element and when the remains could be extricated from the ashes, they presented a ghastly and repulsive spectacle, the body and features of the poor little thing being charred and shrivelled out of recognition... The jury returned a verdict of accidental death by burning."

Kiama Independent
April 28, 1885

As the quarry industry reached the heights of success, the number of industry-related accidents and deaths continued. Through items such as the following, we are reminded not only of the work that went into making Kiama Municipality what it is today, but also the extraordinary suffering that sometimes resulted.

"A SAD fatal accident happened at the Bombo quarry works yesterday morning to Peter Hardy, one of the oldest and most respectable of the employees. Deceased, in the execution of one of his duties, was attending to the belting of the machinery. One of the belts had broken and deceased was endeavouring to prevent its getting entangled, when by some means his ankle was caught in the unbroken belt and dragged round the wheel of the shaft, his head being brought in violent contact with the beam. The upper part of the head above the chin was completely severed from the body. One of the arms was also torn off and the body was terribly mutilated, having been dragged about 20 revolutions of the wheel before the engine could be stopped... deceased was a widower and leaves four children."

Kiama Independent
October 2, 1885

An inquest into the death was held several days later when the deceased was judged as being a steady sober man who was competent in his work. From the evidence tendered, the jury determined the cause of death as accidental.

Mr Hardy's four children, aged four to 12 years, were taken into the care of an aunt in Sydney. Following his funeral at Porters Garden Cemetery, his workmates and friends gathered to raise £26 to defray the funeral costs and to "make some provision for the orphaned children".

In March, 1886, two local lads, Hugh McGlinchey, John Connolly, both stone cutters at Carsons quarry, were injured after efforts at a little workplace "amusement" backfired.

"Serious Accident Through the Explosion of Blasting Powder - A serious accident happened yesterday to two lads named Hugh McGlinchey and John Connolly. It appears that about half a cask of the material was left for some time in a storehouse at Carson's quarry, having become damp and afterwards formed into lumps. Several fruitless attempts had been made on different occasions to fire it off for amusement, and the attempt was renewed by the two lads named, who threw matches on the powder and then ran out of the way. Probably owing to the dryness of the weather, the powder at once an unexpectedly ignited and exploded before the lads could get to a safe distance. They were severely burned about the face, body and limbs, their clothes catching fire and having to be torn or cut off. The sufferers were at once conveyed to their homes, and were promptly attended to by Dr Lacey, but their injuries are of such a nature that the patients are hardly likely to recover for some time."

Kiama Independent
March 5, 1886

It is with shock that we read in the following edition that Hugh McGlinchey, aged 18, succumbed to his injury and his death became the subject of a coronial inquest. The inquiry also sparked valueable and much-needed discussion on safe workplace practices within the quarry industry.

Dr Lacey said that the teenager had died the morning after the accident from "shock to the nervous system". Employees from the neighbouring Campbell and Synott quarry - James Harte, William Smillie and William McCann - also provided evidence about the unsafe storage of the blasting powder.

After a brief deliberation the jury found the deceased had died from the effects of burns and that "we blame John Carson, jun for leaving the gunpowder where it was found, after having been cautioned that the place where it was thrown was not a proper place for it".

The loss of a good stud horse held serious implications with regard to the improvement of draught stock. Such was the case in November, 1885, when *Champion of the World*, a pure Lincoln belonging to Hindmarsh Brothers, died just a short time after being imported from "the old country".

Two weeks earlier, a mare imported by the same firm and which arrived on the same ship as *Champion of the World*, died from an attack of "gripes". The mare cost 700 guineas while the horse cost 800 guineas. When combined with the total cost of transit, the immediate pecuniary loss was valued at £2000 pounds, "to say nothing of *Champion's* manifold engagements for the season". In September, 1889, the Jamberoo community was alarmed following the vicious attack on a young boy by two domestic dogs.

"On last Friday night last a savage onslaught was made by two dogs, belonging to the Misses Wallace of Jamberoo, upon a boy named William Brown. It appears the boy was passing by the house from his employer's, Mr H Chittick, towards Jamberoo. Without any warning and for no apparent cause, the two dogs rushed upon him, pulling him to the ground and worrying him by the throat... the dogs would probably have eventually killed him...until Mr Chittick came and freed the lad. Dr Terrey was immediately called for and stitched in all about 10 wounds."

Kiama Independent
October 1, 1889



This group of handsome young men depict the style of men's dress during the 1880s. They are from a local family, although their identities are unknown.

Quarrying

By now it can be assumed that the quarry industry was a dangerous practice - on many counts. Primitive workplace conditions and a lack of controls saw to it that the presence of a quarry in one's neighbourhood could have serious implications for everyone.

"DANGEROUS BLASTING - Shortly after eight o'clock on Saturday morning last some alarm was occasioned amongst the residents living in the neighbourhood of Pikes Hill, by the firing blast of Messrs Synnott and Co's quarry in Hothersall Street. From what we can learn it appears that a hole had been charged - apparently overcharged - in the foot of one of the large columns of stone standing in the quarry, and on its being fired a considerable quantity of stone, some pieces of which must have been 200 pounds in weight, were projected in the direction of Messrs Carson and Malone's residences, a distance of nearly 200 yards. One of the larger pieces of metal came in contact with a brick chimney of a cottage belonging to Mr Carson splitting it from the base very nearly to the top; and the roof of an outbuilding not far distant from the cottage, and also owned by the same person, was also damaged by another piece of stone. A good-sized piece of metal was impelled with considerable force through the corrugated roof of a cottage occupied by Mr A Hacking, but luckily without injuring any of the occupants. Fences in all directions at the rear of these premises were knocked down. A stage coach belonging to Mr Malone was also struck by a piece of metal about 14 pounds in weight. It is the usual custom in firing blasts, and we think a wise one, especially when in close proximity to any places of residence - to cover them over with timber or other material to prevent the stones from flying and it is to be hoped that some precaution in this respect will in future be taken before some serious accident occurs."

Kiama Independent
April 26, 1887

The avenues for social entertainment for the quarrymen at Bombo were not overly desirable, the only source of entertainment being a place known as "The Club" which was described by the *Independent* as "...a fruitful source of evil. Its very existence menaced all order... The freedom from scrutiny, the liberty it enjoyed, threatened to degenerate into the most lawless licence."

The Club was finally closed in 1888 by quarry proprietor and owner, Mr D Salmond Esq, after a riot occurred.

In August, 1889, a venue of greater

refinement and respectability was opened with the establishment of a Workmen's Reading Room. At the opening, Mr Salmond admitted that he was not at first in favour of such a room, he believing that it would not "benefit the breadwinners in any way" (his sentiments were no doubt shared by many of the local quarrymen who were still smarting at the loss of the "Club"), but he was now certain it would be appreciated by the residents of Bombo as a whole. This was, in part, evidenced by the attendance of 130 people at the launch of the room.

Coal

In 1888 we were still hearing of hopes to have a successful coal trade established at Jamberoo. Attempts were made by the directors of the dairy factories at Waughope and Woodstock to gain a supply from a coalyard belonging to Mr Dymock and located "on the mountain near Snell's half-way house", but this venture had proved too expensive.

The directors then turned their sights to coal lands on the side of the mountain and adjoining the property of Billy Wright and hopes were high that the project would at last see a local coal industry established. "In a few weeks, when a road to the mine and some other necessary works are completed, we will have 'our own' coal in use at Jamberoo."

Kiama Independent, April 6, 1888

BATHROOM AND KITCHEN RESTORATIONS



Federation Tiles and Borders
Terracotta and Slate Soap Holders,
WC Roll Holders & Brushes
Timber Coat Hooks and Federation Pavers

REDROCK
CERAMICS AND SLATE
Cnr Miall Way and Rivulet Cres, Albion Park Rail
☎ 4257 1133

LACONIA Coffee Lounge

For the Freshest
Meals and Takeaway
with Friendly Service

Laconia is proud to
support and sponsor this
historic project

Terralong Street, KIAMA
TELEPHONE
4232 1489



Saga of the Post Office 'loo'

ROME wasn't built in a day - and neither, it appears, was a backyard toilet built in Kiama in 1881.

Such was the case for the newly-opened Kiama Postal and Telegraphic Office (pictured) when the unfortunate residing post master, Mr John Tyter, had to wait 18 months for his own private 'convenience'.

Former Kiama Postmaster, Mr David Kirkman, has brought to light some valuable, early information about one of our most historic landmarks, including insights taken from the various postmasters' diaries.

Mr Kirkman said that Kiama's first post office was opened on January 1, 1841, just 13 years after the first NSW Colony offices beyond Sydney came into existence. It is believed that the first postmaster was George Hindmarsh.

In 1874, John Stewart MP submitted an application on behalf of Kiama Municipal Council to build a new post office on a portion of the "town hall site" at the corner of Manning and Terralong Streets. The application was approved and £1500 was voted in 1875 to the project, followed by another £1700 in 1877.

If original intention had been carried through, the post office would have been built on the opposite corner of Manning Street (now occupied by the Commonwealth Bank), the site originally targeted for the building.

This site was first proposed but was not favourable to the postmaster, John Tyter. Moves were made for a land swap with Kiama Council - the eastern corner block in exchange for the "Town Hall" block, but council declined the request.

In 1875, a third site, located on the corner of Shoalhaven and Terralong Streets, was considered while the battle for the town hall site continued, local residents joining the campaign with their own petition.

In 1876 Kiama Council relented, exchanging a portion of the town hall site for a similar area on the south east corner of Market Square (which includes the current Kiama Council). In January, 1878, the tender of WR Vaughan of £3000 to build the post office was accepted. The construction project was completed in December of that year.

But, according to Mr Kirkman, the story did not end there. In January, 1879, Postal Inspector Davies reported to the Colonial Architect that the arrangements for posting letters was unsafe for the public and that no arrangements had been made for transacting money orders or Savings Bank business.

Having received no response to his concerns, Inspector Davis repeated his concerns in July and again in August of 1879. The issue was finally resolved and the Kiama Post Office Building was occupied on January 19, 1880, exactly two years, two weeks and two days after its completion.

Two weeks later, the postmaster, Mr Tyter, reported the need for stables, a water tank and outhouse (toilet). Approval for the work was given in March but not completed until August, 1881 - 18 months after Mr Tyter first took up residence!

"I will forever wonder how far the postmaster had to go when nature called," Mr Kirkman said.

Mr Kirkman said that, in the early days, it cost nine pence to send a letter from Kiama to Sydney which he said was "a very hefty fee". To send a letter to England cost three

shillings - the equivalent of one week's wage.

When the railway went through from Kiama to Nowra in 1893, the mail service by horse to Moss Vale was discontinued.

In the period 1889 to 1897, the list of repairs included a rotten back fence, a leaky roof and the sinking of stone flag pavers on the verandah which had become dangerous. Mr Tyter's long-fought for toilet was also "falling in" and required fixing. This work was carried out by local carpenter, Jack Ettingshausen.

No repair bill, however, compared with the calamity which occurred in April, 1905, when the pendulum of the clock crashed through the tower and ended up in the present foyer entry of the post office. Fortunately, no staff or members of the public were present, the incident occurring on a Sunday.

Mr Kirkman said that in March, 1905, the local Progress Association drew attention to the inconvenience of the delivery window for the handing over of mail and asked that a counter be substituted.

"Twenty five years of mail delivery through a window!" Mr Kirman said.

He said that the clock had been maintained by locals Ern Palin (a former jeweller in Terralong Street), then Alf Wilford and Barry Holz for the past 20 years.

An interesting piece of trivia is that the east and south faces of the Post Office clock are delayed on approach to the hour by up to three minutes but make the adjustment after passing the 12 apex.

In 1996, Kiama Post Office was converted to a 'retail post shop' and the four operational areas - counter/retail, mail sorting/circulation, letter delivery and parcel delivery were contracted into four autonomous units. As a consequence, the role of the traditional postmaster/postal manager controls ceased to exist.

Kiama has seen a great deal of change since George Hindmarsh opened the first post office (believed to have been located in Shoalhaven Street) until Postal Manager Transitional, Mr A Burke, handed his hat over to Postmaster, Mr Toby Bartle, in 1997, following the conversion of the Kiama Post Office.

The following is a list of the Kiama postmasters, starting in 1868.

Agnes Tyter (started 1868 - wife of telegraph station master, John Tyter)

John Tyter (1870)
Luke Kingsmith (1895)
JW Clinch (1899)
FT South (1908)
F Small (1914)
W Walsh (1916)
Mary Buckley (1920)
JF Keelty (1922)
AJ Plunkett (1924)
HG Ockwell (1928)
G Young (1932)
JD Riley (1960)
OC Male (1962)
B Farrell (1963)
AE Laybutt (1964)
HS Murray (1965)

KL Mills (1978) Postmaster Postal Manager Designated

DJ Kirkman (1987) Postmaster Postal Manager

A Burke (1994) Postal Manager Transitional

Toby Bartle (1997) Postmaster

"HUGH COLLEY - The mortal remains of the oldest representative of one of the oldest families who settled in this district, Mr Hugh Colley, were interred in the public cemetery Porter's Garden on Wednesday last, 9th instant. A very large number of friends, in vehicles and on horseback, attended the funeral which moved from his late residence Longbrush, about 2pm... Deceased was 71 years old, the immediate cause of death being paralysis... The members of this highly esteemed family who, coming from County Antrim, Ireland, first settled in Kiama in the year 1841 were John and M James Colley, and on their representation of this El-dorado, the remainder of the family consisting of mother, two sons, Hugh and William, and three daughters, arrived three years afterwards. The mother, Mrs Ann Colley, died at the ripe old age of 83 on June 20, 1874, one of her daughters (Mrs Cameron) died at a more recent date, and three brothers and two sisters still survive. The deceased married somewhat late in life, an estimable lady Miss Mackay, of the Noura Park family... she died without issue some six years ago. Their ashes now lie side by side within the same closure."

Kiama Independent
June 11, 1886

DR CHARLES LACEY - Having tended to the many sick and dying residents of the area for the past six years, it came as a shock to local residents in September, 1886, to learn that their local medico, Dr Charles William Lacey, had died. Dr Lacey was killed in similar circumstances to that of his predecessor, Dr William Tarrant who was killed in a buggy accident in 1880. While the details were sketchy, it appeared Dr Lacey had been thrown from his horse while in the course of making a house call. His was found in a dying condition by a local family on their way to church. Dr Lacey's wife was sent for but he died before she could make it to his side. On the day of his funeral, all local business was ceased, causing Kiama to look like "a veritable city of the dead". The funeral cortege was one of the largest seen in Kiama, it reaching the entire length of Collins Street. It was followed by about 200 people on foot, 30 buggies and 100 horsemen - a total of 500 people in all.

JOSEPH PIKE - In December, 1886, the death of another of Kiama's pioneer settlers was recorded when Mr Joseph Pike died through 'decay of nature', aged 76. Mr Pike was "esteemed by all who knew him, and he certainly leaves his 'footprints on the sands of time'." (Kiama Independent, December 10, 1886). He was born in the parish of Malmesbury, Wiltshire, England, in March, 1810. He arrived in Sydney in 1829 and was engaged with a doctor attached to one of the Imperial regiments. He later married Mary (nee Talbot) and turned his attention to farming - relocating to a property at Dapto. Ten years later (the Independent says 'in 1817' but this is obviously a typographical error), he purchased land in Kiama and settled on the premises at Pike's Hill where he followed the occupation of storekeeper, adding dairying pursuits as he cleared the land. "He had more than a fair share of public spirit and served the people in the capacity of alderman for many years, and as mayor for some five or six years with all the energy, business tact and singleness of purpose that could possess any man... we knew him intimately for 34 years and we are proud to say that we recognised in our departed friend a blunt, outspoken, straightforward, honest Christian citizen. He was a director on the board of the SSN Co (Shellharbour Steam Navigation Company) since its establishment... He was a director of the Pioneer Dairy Factory... He was a consistent member and regular attendant on the services of the Church of England... His widow, four daughters and one son are left to mourn... One daughter and one son are still unmarried; the others are well-settled in life and are married respectively to Captain Wilson, Captain T Honey and Mr George Wood jun." Mr Pike was buried at Porter's Garden Beach Cemetery following an "impressive" burial service conducted by the Church of England.

THOMAS TULLOCH - On Easter Monday, April 2, 1888, Kiama lost its very first pilot and harbour master following the death of Thomas Tulloch, aged 63 years. "He was essentially a sailor and in that capacity had visited most of the principal ports of the

world. True to the 'old salt' type, he was a times rough, but tender hearted and good natured to a degree. Twenty seven years ago he accepted the position of wharfinger for the ISN Co at Kiama, and 15 years ago was appointed pilot and harbour master by the Marine Board. Three years ago his wife died, and since that sad event poor Tom never seemed to look up or enjoy good health and for the last few months it was evident to all that the end was near. The immediate cause of death was lung disease, and he leaves a family of five girls for whom the sympathy of the people is only equalled by the esteem in which their late father was held."

Kiama Independent
April 3, 1888

GEORGE KING WALDRON - On August 12, 1888, one of Kiama's most respected businessmen, George Waldron, died after a fit of apoplexy. "He was the fifth son of Mr Charles Waldron, captain of the 39th Regiment of Foot; he was born in Jersey on July 13, 1827, and came with his parents to the colony in 1832... At 24 years of age he married Miss Minnie Fuller, daughter of Mrs Anne and sister of TJ and GL Fuller... and very shortly after that he came to Kiama, went into partnership with Mr Fuller and for several years carried on a general store business under the name and style of Fuller and Waldron; he then commenced business as an auctioneer and for years was the principal knight of the hammer in this district and from which he only retired about two years ago. He leaves a widow, four daughters and four sons."

Kiama Independent
August 17, 1888

SAMUEL WILLIAM GRAY - The only male representative of one of the area's oldest families, Samuel William Gray, son of the late James Mackay Gray, proprietor of the Omega Estate, died in April 1889. He died at his Edgecliff, Sydney home from a fit of apoplexy, aged 66. "...the deceased was a promising and, we may add, distinguished member of the old Kiama Debating Society and was, of course, contemporary with such efforts at mental culture and the dissemination of moral, scientific, literary and political information... The deceased gentleman was eminently educated for the position he afterwards occupied for some years as a representative of this district in the Parliament of NSW and, during the term of the Couper-Robertson Government he was an excellent debater and extremely useful in passing the Land Act of 1861... The remains of the deceased were brought to the district on Sunday last by special train and interred beside those of his father in the Gerringong Cemetery." The deceased left a wife, two sons and three daughters. Besides himself, his family also consisted of three daughters who were married respectively to the Hon Samuel Charles MLC, William Osbourne Esq JP of Wollongong, and William Marks of Tweed River.

ISABELLA GREY - On October 4, 1889, the community mourned the loss of Isabella Grey, wife of the late George Grey, of Mount Salem, Kiama, at the "advanced age" of 85 years. "The deceased lady was well and widely known throughout the district; she with her husband and family - two sons and four daughters - came to the Illawarra 49 years ago from the County Fermanagh, Ireland, where they occupied a respectable and indeed a responsible position in life. At the time of the old gentleman's death (George Grey - died 1887) they had six children, 35 grand-children and six great grand-children... Like the whole family, deceased was an enthusiastic member of the Church of England."

Kiama Independent
October 8, 1889

Kiss and 'make-up'

"Young ladies with artificially clear complexions should not permit the young men to kiss them on the cheek if they would become married. To go off quickly, they should keep their powder dry."

Kiama Independent
January 5, 1886

Michael & Cecilia Hindmarsh

IN 1827, a young couple rode to Gerringong from Campbelltown by horseback, balancing an infant son between them and wondering for all the world what future lay ahead. Such was the journey of Michael and Cecilia Hindmarsh, two of Kiama Municipality's original residents who went on to establish the historic *Alne Bank* property and raise a family of 13 children - initially in a humble hut.

Through precious, personal letters written by Michael Hindmarsh to his family in England from 1822 to 1843, we are provided with a valuable insight into not only the couple's own trials as pioneers of this region, but also the trials of their neighbours.

The legacy of Michael and Cecilia, of course, lives on through their descendants and the many historic local landmarks which owe their existence to this family.

The following account was taken from a piece written by family friend, BERYL MCGREGOR, of Gerringong, and includes excerpts from Michael's letters.

Michelle Hocter

MICHAEL George Hindmarsh, the builder of *Alne Bank*, Gerringong, was born in Northumberland, England, in 1800. His father, George, died when he was five, his mother when he was eight, leaving him to be raised by his uncle, John Nisbet, who saw to it that the boy had a good education.

A landowner, John trained Michael in husbandry and all kinds of farm work, in buying and selling stock, and in managing workmen. Michael was to find that managing his uncle's workmen in Northumberland was vastly different to managing convicts in NSW.

He came to Australia in 1822, well-equipped to make a success of himself. The letters Michael sent home provide an interesting insight into conditions in the fledgling colony of NSW. He first went to Van Dieman's Land, but soon moved to NSW and found employment in the Camden area with John McArthur.

He next worked for Jonathon Hassell - a property owner at the junction of the Nepean River where he was employed as farm manager and "Superintendent of Convicts". Overseeing the "prisoners" was a task Michael had difficulty coming to terms with and which fuelled his desire to own his own property.

"...I find an agricultural establishment so difficult to carry on, both on account of the labourers and climate, the former being all the scourgings of the nation, their work being all forced and often by the infliction of a flogging... my master tells me I am too lenient with them, I have only had one man flogged these two months, which is a very uncommon thing here." (September 21, 1824)

In 1825, he related the employment conditions of the prisoners.

"Our men being nearly all prisoners, we are obliged to provide the weekly provisions which consist of (by Government orders) one peck of wheat or four lbs salt pork or 7 lbs fresh beef or mutton per week, exclusive of yearly wage of £10 per year which they can only demand in clothing, tea, sugar, tobacco, &c..."

They are shocking creatures to deal with. I have detected them stealing about four bushels of wheat this last week. Thieving is their whole study.

In 1826, Michael left Jonathon Hassell's employ and began farming on 300 rented acres (121.5 hectares) near Campbelltown. The same year he married Cecilia Sophia Rutter, the housekeeper of Mr Hassell and daughter of the governor to that gentleman's family.

"Mr Dear Sister...I would have written you some months ago, but to tell you the truth I could not possibly set about, having been over head and ears in Love these many months past... I left my situation last June and commenced farming. Consequently, towards housekeeping, I must have a wife, and was married, August 15th/26, to a young lady born in the Colony. Her name was Cecilia Sophia Rutter... I must say without flattery that I have got an industrious and excellent wife."

Michael's dearest wish, however, was to have land of his own, but his first applications were unsuccessful. This was until 1826 when his grant was made, one square mile (259 hectares) in the Five Island District, sometimes referred to as Illawarra. Although there is no letter outlining the couple's journey, Michael outlined his impressions of the region. One can only imagine the nightmare ride over mountains, rivers and creeks while balancing an infant, George, in the saddle.

"It is, as to the quality of the land, the finest part of the country I have yet seen. It is on the Sea Coast and bounded on the back by a chain of inaccessible mountains, so that water carriage is the only means settlers have of sending their produce to market. People are beginning to emigrate to it, and I intend taking my land there... The land in general is a rich vegetable mould, and abounds with plenty of cedar, beefwood and many other valuable kinds of timber... The various lakes and inlets of the sea abound with plenty of delicious fish, black swans, ducks &c, and the forest with



Michael Hindmarsh, of *Alne Bank*, Gerringong.



Cecilia Sophia Hindmarsh (nee Rutter).

turkeys, pheasants, bush kangaroos &c, and worst of all plenty of huge trees for the poor settlers to fell, burn off &c." (August 22, 1825)

Michael was pleased that his new property - a place he called *Alne Bank* - especially as it contained 60,000 feet of valuable timber, namely cedar, which sold in Sydney from £1 3s (\$2.80) to £1 6s (\$3.10) per 100 feet with all the expenses of sawing and other labour attached. He also explained to his relatives in England the conditions attached to his land grant.

"In the course of seven years there has to be expended on the land one fourth of its value which value is estimated by Commissioners set up for the purpose and if such improvement is not made your land grant is cancelled. Second, at the expiration of seven years you have to pay five percent per annum to the Crown as Quit Rent on the value of the land fixed by the said Commissioners. But you can redeem the Quit Rent as a 20 year's purchase provided the payment be made within 20 years after the date of the execution of the grant. You are not allowed to alienate the land under any pretext whatever until the expiration of seven years or until the sum above stipulated be laid out in improvements. So you see they are very particular these days. These are new regulations." (May 14, 1827)

At *Alne Bank*, the cedar industry took most of Michael's attention for the first 10 years. He had several teams felling the timber and taking it to the boat harbour for transport to Sydney.

Michael's letters provide a fascinating account of life in the new land, a land unlike anything in England. He told of the weather, the gales, floods and droughts. The fluctuating prices of

grains, wool, meat, cattle, sheep and horses. He sent to England for seeds, parts for his farming equipment and, when his belongings were once plundered, items of clothing.

In 1833, Michael reported the birth of his fourth child and, in 1835, wrote of the "augmentation" of another girl, and that he had engaged a tutor for the boys. He also tells of having a church services in their home. At this time the government encouraged churches to be built and paid the clergymen's salaries. Presbyterian and Episcopalian ministers were welcomed by Cecilia and Michael, and services of both faiths were held in their home before there were churches in Jamberoo, Kiama and Gerringong.

"I have engaged a respectable person as tutor to the boys. We have had the benefit of church service in our own house established lately by the district chaplain... It has a salutary effect on the youngsters and the more so as they were never in a church in their lives." (August 31, 1835)

Michael and Cecilia's family was augmented by 14 children, 12 of whom were raised to adulthood. Cecilia was indeed an excellent wife. Her life was extremely busy with running a large establishment, receiving visitors and training her children to become fine citizens. In Michael's letters he speaks of his wife in the fondest terms, she being a true helpmeet in all his adventures.

At the close of 1838, Michael reported that the Government had prohibited the cutting of cedar on Crown Lands. He, meantime, had ceased cedar getting on his own property, turning his attention to the cultivation of "alluvial bush".

"I have got 40 acres of alluvial bush (thicket) land in a forward state of cultivating, which is very expensive. It would cost from £10 to £14 per acre if I had to employ free men. But this I did with prisoners, but will soon have to depend on immigrants as the assignment of prisoners is soon to be done away with... We all were ill with the influenza in October last. It is raging over the country... There is plenty of employment for operatives of all sorts. Farm labourers and shepherds are very much wanted. A good farm servant with a wife will get from £25 to £35 per year with rations, viz, food." (December, 1838)

Alne Bank saw in turn crops of wheat, tobacco and potatoes. Michael planted rye grass and white clover, established an orchard and kept a large herd of cattle.

Gradually, he turned to horses and cattle as the climate proved unsuitable for agriculture. When the cedar trade finished, dairying and horse-breeding became the mainstay.

In May, 1842, Michael, reported that a depression of the colony due to "over speculation".

"The colony is in a dreadful depressed state. Land, all kinds of stocks, in fact everything within the last two years has depreciated from 30 to 50 percent owing principally to over speculation. There have been some very heavy losses and likely to be many more... Owing to the depressed state of the Colony, our little town of Kiama has made little progress. There have only been five or six houses built since I wrote you last."

Michael Hindmarsh's interests covered the whole district. With his neighbours he made a road from *Alne Bank* to Kiama and, in 1841, he and James Mackay Gray were assessors to assist Captain Collins in arranging for a road to be built from Kiama to Gerringong. He bought two allotments in Kiama and built a cottage on one where his brother, George, newly arrived from England, presided over Kiama's first post office. He also later welcomed his sister, Miss Hannah Hindmarsh, who established a well-known school for young ladies at "Rosebank" in Kiama.

Michael was on the committee of the first Illawarra Agricultural Society, formed in 1844. He and others rode to Wollongong to attend meetings, the ploughing competitions and the Agricultural Shows.

Michael became a Justice of the Peace and sat as magistrate in Kiama and the Shoalhaven. When suburban lots were open for sale in Gerringong, he and his sons bought 13 lots, and he added to *Alne Bank* by purchasing 158 acres (65 hectares) to the north-west. When churches were to be built in Gerringong, Michael donated land for both the Presbyterian and Congregational churches. He remained a prominent churchman and honourable citizen all his life.

He died at *Alne Bank* on January 25, 1867, when he stepped outside to intercept an intruder. The *Kiama Independent* described him as "a man truly honourable and just... a magistrate upright and intelligent... a father and husband most affectionate and kind... a good citizen".

Cecilia died two years later. She and Michael are buried in the private cemetery overlooking the family home. Two infant daughters are there too, and Michael's brother and sister, George and Hannah.



Historic *Alne Bank* (built in 1851), before the addition of the balcony.