

----THE ----  
**RADIO ACTIVITY**  
 ----NEWS BULLETIN----

**For information of Ex.Radium Hill Community and families**

Official Organ of the Radium Hill Historical Association Inc.

February 2003

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This newsletter design is in keeping with the original style used in Radium Hill and was produced by June Kakoschke

The next Radio Activity News Bulletin will be published in February 2004

**Hello there,**

Besides surviving the Y2K Millennium Bug we have also just celebrated the tenth anniversary of our formation during which time 100 hours have been spent in Committee meetings pursuing our endeavours. On reflecting back over these years we have achieved many objectives, renewed friendships, had a lot of fun, and experienced some sorrow.

It is hard to believe that its been four years since we had the last big Reunion at Radium Hill in 1996, and now the Easter 2000 Reunion is nearly upon us.

How time flies!

The Easter Reunion is going to be great, especially as it will be a "5 day long weekend" from Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April till the Anzac day holiday Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April. Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April will possibly be the highlight of events planned and certainly a most memorable occasion not to be missed.

Happy reading, keep in touch, spread the word, till we meet again.

Best wishes to you and yours.

.....  
 Kevin Kakoschke  
 February, 2000

**EASTER 1999**

Just prior to Easter I took Alex Smith (the artist) and his daughter Sarah Hewitt (a judge from New York, U.S.A.) to Radium Hill, as she wanted to see some of our outback Australiana. Sarah was most impressed by the vastness of the country and its wildlife, especially the hopping kangaroos. Sarah would dearly loved to have seen Radium Hill, the town, and people during its heyday. She also liked what our group has done to help preserve the heritage and made a donation to help us in our endeavours. Thanks Sarah!

At Easter on the road between Yunta and the Tickalina turnoff,

Bill and Vicki Davis counted 18 wedgetail eagles on the road. They are attracted by the "road kill" carcasses of kangaroos and if gorged, have difficulty getting airborne. They certainly can make a mess of your vehicle if you misjudge their ability to get out of your way when driving along the highway. Take care.

The weather during the Easter period was fabulous with 9 of the 10 days that we were there being simply perfect. In the evening just yarning, or listening to the football, stirring one-eyed barrackers, and eating fresh baked damper in the glow of the evening campfire was idyllic.

What a life. On some evenings its amazing to see the number of satellites that cross the star studded sky, a sight rarely seen in the hazy city night skies.

Maurice Francis of Maldorky station mentioned that a passing thunder storm had caused a bit of green feed to grow along Olary Creek down past Hugger's Place and that a lot of wild life had congregated there. Well, we decided to go for a drive and check it out. It was only about 1km. past Hugger's on the track to Mutooroo Station when the action started..... Roos galore and emus too, a hopping running mass of fur and feathers, as far as the eye could see. I've never in all my born days seen such an incredible sight before.

Guess what? Yes, we forget to take the camera with us.

On another occasion we decided to take a drive out to the Maldorky's to see the changed landscape and also the scenery. Reg and Darryl Aldrich also came along. Someone suggested that we needed to take something to drink, "How many" asked Darryl of Reg. "Two, no.....better make it three each." says Reg (stubbies that is).

The trip still holds a sense of adventure, what with its wildlife of roos, emus, and goats, plus the rugged track and scenery. Large stretches of clear blue water in the creek bed make a vivid contrast to barren rocky outcrops. Terrific 4W drive country.

At Olary creek where the power line used to cross, a number of young river red gums have sprouted in shallow depressions on the northern bank. This is in sharp contrast to the southern side of Olary Creek where there

are still wide expanses of wind blown sand, a result of the February 1997 floods. At this same point a couple of years ago we saw a huge mob of emus, as far as the eye could see, boring along the creek in Indian file, with necks outstretched and tail feathers flapping. An incredible sight.

### MUSEUM

Some more memorabilia has been donated to the Museum. Murray Stock who was the Acting Field Manager at Radium Hill in 1951 and also the Project Design Engineer, has donated a collection of manuals and specifications for a large proportion of the equipment initially used at Radium Hill. Thanks Murray!

He also has a photo album depicting the construction of the Mine Site in 1951 and even one where Teasdales Dam was being enlarged. Another photo shows the site where a large dam was contemplated at the point where two ranges of hills meet, just upstream from the present day cemetery. Arthur Baillie has donated an electric kettle, which only ceased working in 1999 and for which there are no spare parts today. It was used by Arthur and other barmen at the "Wet Canteen", when they wanted to have a "cuppa" for a change. Arthur also mentioned that at that time a bottle of beer cost three bob, the same price as a meal in the Main Mess, and a pint was one shilling and eleven pence. When the price was raised to two shillings, there was nearly a strike over it.

Recently Jim McDiarmid picked up three books from the West Croydon/Kilkenny RSL Club, they were originally from the Radium Hill Social Club Inc. Library. They are called "The

Big Blockade", "The Long Road Home", and, "They Shall Not Pass Unseen." The Social Club stamp inside the cover also highlighted, "penalty for overdue books, one penny per day", (perhaps). The original borrower ticket is still inside the back cover of "They Shall Not Pass Unseen" with familiar names eg. Batchelor, Fleming, Farthing, Myers, Thomson, Higgs, Maynard, Clark and Corti, being just a few who had borrowed the book.

### CEMETERY

The trees around the cemetery are becoming very noticeable, by showing a lot of new growth, due in part to our having controlled the sap sucking leaf miner mites which had been stunting their growth. They are a very rewarding sight for our efforts. The tallest tree must be about nine feet tall now. A colourful pair of Robins have built a very well camouflaged nest in one of the trees and when visited in January they were rearing some chicks. No doubt as the trees get bigger then other birds may also use them for nesting.

June and I have designed and donated a memorial plaque to help folk appreciate their visit to the Cemetery. It depicts a short account of the people buried there and the circumstances of how they lost their lives. This type of Cemetery Plaque is possibly the first of its kind in any Australian cemetery and therefore has significant heritage value. Trevor Morrison fabricated the plaque's aluminium structure, which looks great. Thanks

Trevor! It will be officially unveiled on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, during the Easter 2000 Reunion. Neil Gobbett has highlighted the lettering on the original Memorial cairn commemorative plaque, which was dedicated at our first Reunion in 1991. A painstaking job. Well done, Neil!

John Karagiannis from Canada who visited the grave of his brother "Jim" last year has now kindly donated a vehicle access gate for the Cemetery fence. It will be known as the Demitriou "Jim" Karagiannis Memorial Gate and will be officially opened by one of his relatives on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, during Easter 2000 Reunion. It will certainly make our job of caring for the cemetery much easier. Many thanks John!

In the 1998 "Radio Activity" News Bulletin I mentioned that some people would like their ashes or remains buried in the Radium Hill Pioneers Cemetery. Well a number of folk requested information relating to this proposal with the result being that a number of plots have been reserved by them for this purpose. There are still some plots available and if you are interested, the details can be obtained from either Jim or myself. It certainly beats the 25 or 50-year leases available at city cemeteries without the fear of "your" grave being cleaned out and used for someone else at a later date. I have also been informed through legal opinion that no Native Title Claim can be lodged over the Cemetery Reserve.

### NAME CHANGE

To enable us to become a legal identity for the purpose of working with Government bodies in managing the Radium Hill Heritage Museum and the Radium Hill Pioneers Cemetery we have set up an incorporated body called the "Radium Hill Historical Assn. Inc". This is the third name change we have made since our inception. The objectives and purpose of this Assn is basically the same as the Reunion Committee, the only major difference being the name and legality, with a more clearly defined Constitution for registration purposes.

The Easter 2000 Reunion maybe the last big Reunion at Radium Hill as the number of folk who are able to travel is decreasing as the years roll by. Your comment/views would be appreciated in this regard. The "Radio Activity" News Bulletin is still mailed to 580 families both within all states of Australia and seven overseas countries.

### OBITUARY

Regretfully a number of our friends and relatives have passed away since our last newsletter including: -

Adamowicz Paul, Adelaide SA  
Andrews Kathleen, Adelaide SA  
Bell Thomas, Te-Atuta N.Z.  
Constanas Dimitrios, Clayton  
Vic.

Devenney Robert, Nambour Qld.  
Evans Don, Gladstone S.A.  
Jolly Colin, Cairns, Qld.  
Jones Patricia, Pt. Lincoln S.A.  
Kakoschke Peter, Adelaide S.A.

Krutyholova Bronislav,  
Adelaide, S.A.  
Lucas Sydney, Colac, Vic.  
Reitter Irma, Burnie Tas.  
Sheehan Frank, Waikerie S.A.  
Smith Beryl, Adelaide S.A.

Timoney Eugene, Adelaide  
S.A.  
Venema Klaassina, Renmark  
S.A.  
Viney Aileen, Pt. Neil S.A.  
Vojvodic Micheal, Collaroy  
Plateau NSW

To their families we offer our deepest sympathy and condolences for their loss.

### EASTER 2000 REUNION

Besides a good contingent of croweaters who will be attending, present indications are that quite a few folk from interstate will also be in attendance, including Tom and Les Andrews and their families from Perth who decided to forego the Sydney Olympics and attend the Reunion instead. Terrific!

Caravans are available for hire from Broken Hill Caravan Park

Phone 08 -808873841 at \$150 per week if you want to bring one down to Radium Hill.

The Olary Oasis Hotel has bed and breakfast available for \$25 a night, Phone 08 83402922

Barry Woosnam has done a terrific job remodelling the hotel, check it out on your way through.

Bob and Margaret Hughes at Wompinie Station, just out of Mingary have cabin accommodation available at \$20 per night. Phone 08-80911679.

Some folk have indicated that they will be at Radium Hill for most of the week before and after Easter.

## FACILITIES & SERVICES PLANNED

Self-sufficiency in: -

- Food
- Drinking Water
- Accommodation
- Personal Requirements



- Washing water available on site
- Bush shower available
- Toilets available
- BYO Gas BBQ
- BYO Seating



- R.N. & First Aid available
- R.F.D.S. available per H.F. Radio Service

### **Saturday Night 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

- Communal BBQ \$2 p.p. for meat, everyone to supply a salad which will be pooled

### **Sunday Night 23<sup>rd</sup> April**

- Associates Dinner a Black Tie Event BYO food and drinks

## SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE REUNION ARE

- Visit the Museum and pick up a Radium Hill information sheet, map, and sign the visitors book, before driving out to the camping ground.
- Register with the Camp Commandant, Trevor Morrison, and pick up your name tag and purchase your BBQ meat ticket for Saturday night.

- Easter Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April  
“Remember when” evening

### **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 11.30am**

- Unveiling of the Memorial Plaque and Opening of the Memorial Gate at the Cemetery
- **2.00 PM** Points of Interest Tag-a-long Tours
- **6.00pm** onwards
- Evening BBQ
- Impromptu Concert...join in the fun with your item.
- Damper Cooking

### **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 7.30am**

- Interdenominational Easter Service
- **8am.** Radium Hill Golf Classic
- **9am.** Ladies one stick, one hole, golf competition
- **10.30am** Possible scenic flights over Radium Hill
- **6pm** Associates Dinner

### **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April**

- Luxemburg gold detecting trip.
- Four wheel drive to Maldorky's. (Swimming Togs)

## **MEMORY JOGGERS**

- ❖ **EASTER 2000 Reunion**
- ❖ Radium Hill turn-off from Broken Hill highway at Tickalina signpost, 25km east of Olary, 43km west of Cockburn. Ribbon will be tied to the sign post and bushes etc. on the way out to Radium Hill.
- ❖ Drive to suit road conditions (the road into Radium Hill suitable for cars and caravans)

- ❖ Pick up Radium Hill Area map from the map container.

- ❖ Register, pick up your nametag, and purchase your BBQ meat ticket.
- ❖ Bring your golf clubs, relax and join in the fun.
- ❖ Cameras are allowed, dogs and guns are not.
- ❖ Make sure you have plenty of fuel.
- ❖ When travelling through station property remember to leave gates as you find them.

- ❖ Complete the Radium Hill Easter 2000 Reunion survey cut-off slip and return it to Jim McDiarmid, to help us make sure we have enough meat on hand for the Saturday night BBQ.

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