
RADIO ACTIVITY

NEWS BULLETIN

For information of Ex-Radium Hill Community and families

Official Organ of the Radium Hill Historical Association Inc.

February 2004

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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 2005

Hello there,

The year 2003 saw the successful completion of the Sir Douglas Mawson display in our Museum, the erection of the shower shed at the campsite and entrance portal at the Cemetery.

Once again the Committee would like to thank all those people who helped in any way with donations, letters of thanks, phone calls and best wishes.

This spirit of cooperation can be summed up in the words of a recent conversation with Frank Pignitter **“We were strangers when we arrived but became friends, from being individuals we built a community spirit. That was Radium Hill”.**

On Saturday 10th. April 2004, a special ceremony will be held to commemorate the 50th. year since Radium Hill was officially opened. A lot of interest has already been flagged for **the 2006 Reunion at Radium Hill** to celebrate 100 years since it was first mined

The following pages outline some of our activities and contain items of interest and humour for your enjoyment.

Happy reading, keep in touch, spread the word, till we meet again
 Best wishes to you and yours,

.....
 Kevin Kakoschke.
 Feb. 2004

MALDORKEY GOLD

I haven't heard of any diamonds (News Bulletin 2003) being found by the girls just west of Radium Hill but there is gold out at the Maldorkey's. Peter Harratt and I detected where Olary Creek cuts through the Maldorkey ranges but only found lead (bullets). However, ore samples from a quartz reef when dollied and panned revealed a trace of gold, but definitely not enough to start a gold rush.

STAYING POWER

Barb Medhurst, brother George Green and her son Callin who runs the Yunta Hotel decided to visit Radium Hill on the Easter Sunday. Well, George got tired of waiting for them to get ready and set off from Yunta on his pushbike. He was still as cool as a cucumber when they finally caught up with him on the **outskirts of downtown Mannahill.** where he reckoned that he could have rode all the way, no sweat (140 km).

George by the way is fit, lean and only 82 y.o

BIRTHDAY

Rita Goode celebrated her 90th birthday in July and still travels down to Adelaide from her home in Brisbane to visit family and friends. Congratulations Rita.

SCOTTISH VISITORS

Scottish relatives of June Kakoschke spent three days camped at Radium Hill in March.

They were enthralled by the kangaroos and other wildlife, serenity, and its vastness. By coincidence Michael Grimley took some of his Scottish relatives to Radium Hill on the day after we had left. They “simply adored it, the kangaroos, wild goats, giant wedgetail eagles, and **sleeping beneath the brilliant starry nights**”. They’ll be returning to Radium Hill again in 2004.

EASTER 2003

Once again those folk who had travelled to Radium Hill for Easter 2003 certainly had **a most enjoyable holiday spiced with a few unforgettable moments**. About 40 people were in residence at the campsite on the Friday and Saturday nights where the problems of the world, inter galaxy magnetism, computers and damper cooking were solved around the campfire.

BROKEN HOSES

On Saturday, Lindsay Keams’ caravan had burst a water tank hose and as Joni Krecu was going into Broken Hill that day he would “find” a short length of garden hose to replace it. After Joni had returned that evening the water tank was fixed. Well done.

While driving on Sunday the power steering hose on Joni’s Jackeroo burst, no more power steering, no fluid. Where to find a piece of hose to fix it?

Ah,-- Lindsay Keams caravan of course.

Two hours later and with some power steering fluid that Jeff Perryman just happened to have and the Jackeroos’ power steering was operational again. **Innovators of the bush.**

SHOWER SHED

From the 9th April Trevor Morrison and myself spent a few days erecting the steel framework adjoining the B.B.Q. shelter for what would be the Shower Shed. Some of the roof and cladding was also fixed to help prevent an **itchy ‘roo** rubbing itself on the framework and pushing it skew-whiff before the concrete had set.

On Monday just prior to Easter Neil and Coralie Gobbett were the first to arrive in Radium Hill after doing some road repairs.

By Thursday evening we had the shower cubicle cemented into place **Friday** and more helpers arrived and led by the expert concreters Malcolm Sampson, Rod Lawrence, and John Furga the hand mixing and laying of the concrete floor was well under way.

Saturday, and while Neil Gobbett finished the shower drainage sump the rest of the volunteers finished concreting the floor and completed the slate grey colour bond cladding. Terrific.

Sunday, and a **concrete wheel chair friendly entrance ramp** was poured, water pump, overhead tank, shower cabinet installed and plumbing completed. **The date 20-4-03** was inscribed into the wet cement together with the initials of those folk who had helped in the project i.e. Malcolm Sampson, John Furga, Rod Lawrence, Ian..., Terry Hill, Kym Hill, Paul Hill, Mark Furga, Lindsay Keam, Kevin Kakoschke, Neil Gobbett, Bill Davis, and Trevor Morrison. It was nice to see 5 of Bev Hill’s son’s helping. A big thanks to all.

When Barb Medhurst saw the date 20-4-03 inscribed in the concrete she exclaimed “**wonderful, to remember my birthday like that**”. She was 76 that day. Best wishes Barb.

Monday, and the shower christening time was enjoyed by all. Youngsters can even have a bath in the shower cubicle base.

Criticism, - too dark inside. **Solution**, - opaque polycarb skylight installed in October.

TAG ALONG

On Saturday while the concrete was setting a tag along trip out to Galls well to **see the solar and wind powered water pumping systems in operation** was appreciated by all, as were the attempts at water divining using the “wires” Each vehicle had a UHF radio on board enabling a free flow of questions and commentary during the trip out to the ever popular Maldorkey ranges, it’s bird life and places of interest in between. A look at **the huge red gum in Galls well creek** and the “painted” gum tree at the same location was much more enjoyable than a taste of the “wild apricots” found nearby. **Ugh, bitter as gall.**

CONFUSION?

On Saturday night Joni Krecu who runs his own IT business was explaining some of the pros and cons of different computer systems. “You need at least 40Gb hard drive 800FSB Mother board, DVD/RW Burner 256MB ram,--- etc. and have **any of you guys got a play station ?**”. A voice pipes up, “**Na, haven’t even got a sheep station**”

After some more mega bytes of information Neil asked “**is it easy to turn the thing on**”. Then time to connect up the T.V./video to show a tape which Ron Tame had filmed of his trip out to Crockers Well that day and some previous Xmas party entertainment items. The plugs were red, yellow, white and it was a new system. **The crossed wires conversation** of the installers went like this, “use red on the right”. *Misunderstood*

as red on the white. “No, remember R is for red, is R on the right? O.K., so red is right”. Another voice “no, red is white-“, and **then the instruction manual was found.**

The preamble and videos were certainly entertaining.

CEMETERY

Our application for a small grant from the Department for Environment and Heritage to help build and install an entrance portal at the Cemetery was successful. The steel structure I designed has one hundredth full size models of the Main Shaft headframe acting as corner braces to the vertical posts and cross members which contain the lettering **RADIUM HILL PIONEERS CEMETERY.**

A swivel based flag pole completes the galvanized maintenance free portal. Trevor Morrison and I completed the fabrication and in June, Peter and James Harratt together with Barry Kakoschke and myself concreted it into place. People say that it looks beautiful and **the best time to photograph it is near dusk.**

MUSEUM

Val Lewig and Gilbert Sheehan both sent in documents for the Museum. Thank you.

The Museum is a little crowded now and Keith, Jenny, and Andy Treloar have given us the use of the remaining two rooms. Great, and thank you.

Some re-stumping and renovating will be necessary. Volunteers required at Easter plus other suitable times.

Besides completing displays on “**Radium Hill, A Footstep in The Sir Douglas Mawson Trail**”, and a background on **Arthur Smith the founder of Radium Hill**, we also have displayed commemorative rolls on those folk who had served in the armed forces of their country.

This list now contains the names of 355 people.

The records of a number of British and European folk together with some Australians who served may be lost through the passage of time. I have estimated that there may have been about 500 ex Radium Hill residents both men and women who would have served. We would like to thank the History Trust of S.A., Community History Unit for their ongoing support.

OBITUARY

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

Andrews Thomas, Perth, W.A.
Ashmeade Frederick, Crystal Brook, S.A.
Averay William, Adelaide, S.A.
Baillie Arthur, Tumby Bay, S.A.
Balle Hans, Adelaide, S.A.
Butcher Maralyne, Broken Hill, N.S.W.
Berger Herbert, Melbourne, Vic.
Binkowski Frank, Adelaide, S.A.
Foreman Edward, Hervey Bay, Qld
Kannemann Franz, Adelaide, S.A.
Kochan Aleksander, Adelaide, S.A.
McFadden Mary, Sydney, N.S.W.
Michl Wilhelm, Broken Hill N.S.W.
Morellato Luciano, Adelaide, S.A.
Obst Mervyn, Adelaide, S.A.
Phillips Ann, Adelaide, S.A.
Rachebrandt Irma, Adelaide S.A.
Sprigg Griselda, Arkaroola, S.A.

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

Frank Binkowski was a staunch inaugural member of our committee since 1990. All will sorely miss his friendship and willingness to help out. To Margot and family our special thoughts and prayers.

RECORDS

In October a number of folk spent a few days at Radium Hill on R&R. We were surprised when **Bengi the star of the film “Napoleon”** dropped in on us for a visit and some photo shoots at the cemetery and other locations Bengi and his partner Ted certainly growled about the bindiis (they’re both geriatric Golden Retrievers you see).

A working Bee was held at the museum recording details of various display items and putting names to the faces in photographs **It certainly proved to be a most enjoyable session as many long forgotten incidents were relived.** Late in October a similar documenting session was held back in Adelaide. Hopefully every item will be recorded to the standard museum format by late 2005 thus enabling the Museum to become eligible for accreditation.

One of our new committee members Jim Krecu has kindly donated some kerosene lamps and candles for use at the B.B.Q. and shower area. Their soft glow generated a cosy campfire atmosphere while we yarned and watched for shooting stars and satellites passing overhead. **Jim by the way has been visiting Radium Hill at least once a year since 1976.**

Margaret Puntillo has painted a **Radium Hill flag for the cemetery flagpole.** It features the head frame and a cluster of Sturt peas against a blue background. It looks great. Thanks Margaret.

DROUGHT’ N’ RAIN

In 2002 only ¾” of rain fell on Radium Hill but in 2003 they had about 9”. What a difference.

In early Dec. 3” fell in one down-pour and blew out the bank in the rifle range dam and Teasdales dam is now chock-a-block full. A freak hailstorm hit Olary on the 20th. Nov. and huge hail stones built

up to three feet deep on the hotel roof, blocked the gutters and flooded the interior area. Instead of red dust the country side looked as white as snow for a while. When you call in to say hello to Owen and Trish **order a "Radium Hill special schnitzel", great value at only \$8.**

Their son Gary has a unique collection of snakes, spiders, and amphibians, which are found in the N. E. of S. A. **Yes you do get frogs in the desert** and he is happy to show them to you.

www.Radium-Hill.org.au

Thanks to the generosity of Jon Krecu this is our web site address. The history of the mine's development, the town, its people, and our association are highlighted and illustrated with some photographs. Some previous "Radio Activity", news bulletins are also included on the site. **Feedback and suggestions for improvement are welcome.**

XMAS FUNCTION 2003

The Committee Xmas social held at Pam Barratt's was once again most enjoyable and extremely entertaining. Having a spread of delicious salads, turkey, ham, Xmas pud, and all the trimmings laid out before your eyes certainly makes you **forget about crazy things like diets.**

Margot got the entertainment rolling with the song "**Never on Sunday**". Dressed in a shortish skirt, net stockings, fur stole, and sporting garish makeup and a long cigarette holder she drifted slowly around the room singing, and had everyone **hoping that their day had come.**

Pam Barrett and Sandy Dumont were next with "**We're a Couple of Swells**". Dressed in black suits, top hats, bowties, and braces, which had seen better days, they really "walked" up the avenue

swinging their canes. **Oh what a feeling.** Eat your heart out Fred Astaire

The song "**Lets Get Physical**", was then performed with great gusto by June Kakoschke. Dressed in leotards, sweatbands and wielding dumb-bells and a chest exerciser **she really became physically animal** and left us all exhausted just watching her perform.

A change of pace saw me reciting two poems that I had written, "**Tikalina Pet Pig Was a Corker Porker**" and "**Museum Dust**".

Oh, what an evening.

EASTER 2004

On Easter Sat. 10th. April a ribbon across the cemetery portal will be cut at 11.30 a.m. commemorating **50 years since the Mine was officially opened.** Following this event the ashes of the late Bill Averay will be interned in the cemetery by his family.

At 7.30 p.m. Gary Reeves will display and discuss some of the various reptiles, spiders, and amphibians found in the district. **Should be a" very" interesting evening.**

XMAS PARTY CATCH-UP

Great news.

WHAT ? A Xmas party, talkfest, afternoon tea, and entertainment

WHY ? To share an afternoon tea and coffee with old friends and families at Xmas time.

WHO ? For all ex-Radium Hill residents and their families.

WHEN ? **Saturday 27th. November, 2004** at 2p.m. till 6p.m? **Enter this date in your diary now.**

WHERE ? The Glandore Community Centre Clark building located at 25 Naldera Street, Glandore, (near South & Cross Roads) where we have enjoyed our previous Radium Hill Reunions.

HOW ? Bring a plate of afternoon tea to share.

Hopefully you will share with us your entertainment item.

Collect a name-tag for easy introductions.

Donate a gold coin to help cover the venue hiring costs.

Fill in your enclosed anticipated attendance slip and return it to June or Margot by the 16th. of April 2004.

MEMORY JOGGERS

A number of folk and their children will be camping at Radium Hill this Easter 2004 (Easter Friday 9th. April). Join us and give yourself a holiday. *No tins in the B.B.Q. fire please.

Please contact June our Secretary if you have heard of any ex-Radium Hill resident who may have passed away.

Centenary of Radium Hill, Easter 2006 re-union. Back to School and A.I.M. births. **Cheryl Brosnan** (nee **Carss**) the first born babe at the A.I.M. hospital will be back and hopefully so will **Graham Paul** the last born.

Fill in and return your Xmas Party Catch-up slip by the 16th.April.

If you intend calling into Radium Hill please write or phone both Andy Treloar, Tikalina Stn. via Olary Ph 08 80911529 **and** Maurice Francis, Oulnina Stn. via Mannahill Ph. 08 86505901.

If unable to contact June or myself by phone leave a message with Margot Binkowski who will pass it on.

Want to receive your News Bulletins via Email...? Send us your email address.

Radium Hill Historical Association Incorporated.

These photographs below are especially included in this issue of the Radio Activity News Bulletin, for those folk who have not had the opportunity to re-visit Radium Hill.

They depict the end results of some of our more recent efforts to preserve the historical significance of Radium Hill and to assist in making your next visit there a more enjoyable experience.



Radium Hill Public School Site,
plaque showing the names of past
Head Teachers.

There are 66 similar plaques on house and other business sites in and around the town.

Radium Hill Heritage Museum,
display of the CWA banner and RAOB Lodge buffalo horns.



The Campsite BBQ shelter
(and shower shed at rear).

By the soft evening glow of the kero lamps and candles, we enjoyed a sip and yarn with hot water on the stove and BBQ'd snags on the plate.



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Radium Hill Pioneer Cemetery Portal.

Entry gate, commemorative plaque of deceased, resting place of “Nobby” Clarke’s ashes (under tree).

Vehicle entry gate (Jim Karagiannis memorial gate), and cemetery cairn (mid right).



Cemetery Cairn,

and commemorative plaque in the Radium Hill Pioneer cemetery

Radium Hill Pioneer’s Cemetery,

with the flag flying above the entrance Portal and committee members of the Radium Hill Historical Association.

(from left),

Lois Harvie, Margot Binkowski, Pam Barrett, and June Kakoschke. Taken October 2003.

