

...THE... RADIO ACTIVITY ...NEWS BULLETIN...

For information of ex-Radium Hill Community and families

Official Organ of the Radium Hill Historical Association Inc.

February 2013

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

It has been another fantastic year of highlights and events associated with the history of Radium Hill. Once again, the "Ghost Town Cabaret" was brilliant with many people contributing towards making it such an outstanding success. Thank you.

Unfortunately many of our elderly friends are not able to make the reunion at Easter but assure us that they are with us in spirit and enjoy reading of our activities via the 'Newsletter'. The names of many are remembered around the campfire at night, as stories and yarns of yesterday are told with **passion and feeling**, just great.

The support and donations given by so many different people and groups has been tremendous. To all of you, a big thank you, your contribution was really appreciated by the Committee and by ex-Radium Hill residents and families. Keep us up to date via your letters, phone calls, e mails or just post us a note on our web site.

The **Reunion at Radium Hill** program for **Easter 2013** is bigger, better and brighter than ever and not to be missed if at all possible. Happy reading, keep in touch, **spread the word** till we meet again.

Best wishes to you and yours,
Kevin Kakoschke
Feb. 2013

It's been sixty years since the first babe (Cheryl Carss) was born in

the Radium Hill 5 bed A.I.M. Hospital in 1953. Sharron Daykin, Susan Harwood, Christine Babinskas, Geoffrey Peryman Marie Chapman and John Baxter were also born that year. Over the next eight years another 110 were delivered. It's also 100 years since **Radium Keith Lively** was born at Radium Hill on May 21, 1913.

During Easter 2012, Kym Ford, Julie Morgan, Madere Odom, Jake Romeo, Neil and Coralie Gobbett also celebrated their birthdays at Radium Hill.

Bob Blake will be celebrating his 90th birthday on July 4, 2013.

Best wishes to you all.

EASTER AT RADIUM HILL

To get away from the city and enjoy the atmosphere, friendship and general well being at night was summed up by Pam Barratt where she wrote:

" There is nothing quite like the joy of standing in the sharp night air of the bush with stars so bright you wonder why you ever live in a city, and the gluttonous joy of eating a hot piece of damper (straight from the coals as it were) dripping with butter and golden syrup - jam and cream, whatever you fancy - yum!"

It's even more nostalgic, (**licking one's lips and salivating**) when thinking about Easter 2013 when the dampers will be on again,

The next Radio Activity News Bulletin will be published in February 2014
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Hello there,



"leave nothing but footprints, take nothing but photographs"



To lose weight, bathe in dishwashing liquid. Why? Well, because the label reads, "Dissolves fat that is difficult to remove".

In the last Newsletter I mentioned that the swans which took off from Teasdales Dam formed a flying vee as they headed south. Why the vee?

Well, in a vee formation, the whole flock adds at least **71% more flying range** than if each bird flew alone. When the leader gets tired it rotates back in the formation and another flies in point position. Hmm, is that so!

GOANNAS GALORE

In October we spent 8 days camped at Radium Hill. Mobs of wild goats were everywhere, even strolling through our camp area. We'd wake up in the morning to the **crows cawing and carking** in the gum trees above, and look around. Goats on Tank Hill, along the Avenue and on the Golf clubhouse rise. Kangaroos along the School creek and emus over on the oval flat. Wedge tail eagles guarding their chicks in the nest on top of the 2M gallon tank on Tank Hill nearly completed the picture of peace and tranquillity.

Goannas seem to have taken over some rabbit burrows on the side of the bitumen roads. Driving along "Wog" alley we surprised a goanna which **stood up on its hind legs** as it dashed along and then just 'disappeared' into the bitumen. Closer inspection revealed a hole which it had clawed up through the bitumen and was now being used as an entrance. Another 'goanna burrow' is in front of the old 'Post Office' site. We've blocked the holes to avoid someone driving into them and ripping off some of their front suspension. Some years

ago 'Gus the goanna' had clawed a hole up through the concrete veranda at our museum. Hell, they can dig.

SWIMMING POOL

On Wednesday 23rd of January 1957 the new swimming pool was officially opened with a swimming carnival where Margot Valenti (now Binkowski our treasurer) won the female breast stroke race. The pool measured 100 feet long by 30 feet wide and twelve feet deep at the diving tower end. The total cost of building the swimming pool was fifteen thousand pounds. The pool proved to be much more enjoyable than having to go out to **Gall's Well, the Maldorky's (Lake Maldigo) or the 30,000 gallon Squatters tank** on Tank Hill to have a swim, let alone having a dive. The high diving tower and springboard was designed by Social Club committee man, Bob Blake. George Milling, Chairman of the Social Club and field manager of Associated Diamond Drillers, donated surplus drill rods for fabricating the diving tower frame. The fabrication was done by the blacksmith shop foreman Bill Schulte who was also a committee member of the Social Club.

GOLDEN MOMENTS

Three cheer for Colin Peryman who found his first speck of gold after three years of looking. Where did he find it? Out at the Luxemburghs of course. He's got this **whiz bang "Magic Gold Separator"**. You just pour your pulverized gold bearing specimen or dirt into the outer revolving edge and the gold collects in the centre of the apparatus. I risked a gold nugget

just to prove that it worked.



Colin with his "Magic Gold Separator"

There are still some nice gold nuggets to be found. This 10.4 oz beauty put a glint in Kevin Kakoschke's eye.



You only live once, but if you work it right, once is enough.

THE 'SWAGGY' RETURNS

You can't hold a good "swaggy down". Leith Singe, now 82 years old, caught a bus from Lightning Ridge to Dubbo, then another onto Broken Hill where his nephew Arthur Singe, from Victoria, picked him up to bring him onto Radium Hill. He was only allowed to make the journey this time if **Arthur pledged to "look after him" and stop him getting into any trouble.**

Leith used to mine on the 4th level in the 3800N shaft and he took great delight in telling the group all about his adventures underground, all those fifty-one years ago. He and his party mate Les Passmore, made **nine quid a shift** which was good money in those days. Their contract note which was signed by Bob Blake is in our Museum.

RADIUM HILL SURVEY

In 1861, Surveyor James Brooks set off from an existing baseline and Trig points in the hills just North-west of Burra to complete a Trigonometrical survey of the North-eastern pastoral 'waste lands' and a route to the 'Barrier'.

In May 2012, retired Lands Department surveyor, Paul Tucker, decided to explore some of the original Trig points in the Olary region established one hundred and fifty years ago.

From these original Trig points another Trig point had been established by Lands Dept. surveyor Malcolm Butler in 1951 for surveying the Radium Hill uranium mining reserve.

After many calculations and with Kevin Kakoschke deputising as his "chainman" he determined a spot where it should be.

No concrete holding a Trig station metal pin in sight!

Was the pin buried? (Hello^{ooo}, **where are you John Farthing, Jeff Saunders and Jack Ballinger**, former mine surveyors)?

However, by using a modern hand held GPS position fixing device and a shovel, we uncovered the missing Trig pin under eight inches of dirt.



A beaming Paul Tucker had done it again, success!

Paul and Kevin went on to relocate some of the original pegs of the Radium Hill Pioneer Cemetery and some of the original concrete Permanent Survey Marks of the old uranium mining reserve.

JANUARY DOWNPOUR

On Sunday 29 January, Barry and Kevin Kakoschke, Ian Husband and Rod Lawrence went up to Radium Hill to do some preparation work for the Easter Reunion. They had about 3" of rain since Thursday and Bob Mansfield was marooned out at RH. Struth!.

On the way out to RH, the track was slippery in places and plenty of water. Both vehicles became bogged RH side of Blackhill Dam. (Winched out). Track rutted and the Boundary gate area just passable. Bob Mansfield was certainly pleased to see us as he was getting very low on tucker. Keith's Treloar's black and tan kelpie, 'Buddha', had wandered into camp from Wiawira on the Sunday. He had been missing for a few days. Bob was in his tent wondering how the hell he was going to survive when 'Buddha' appeared at his tent fly. Andy Treloar and Helen **slipped and churned their way** out from Tickalina to pick him up.

Mon 30 Jan. and far too damp to go out prospecting. We decided to **skim and weed the cemetery** before concreting the bases for the headstones of John Baxter and Frank Pignitter. We noticed some big paw prints in the cemetery creek and thought '**blooming dingoes**'. It was then that Bob came out with another dog, 'Fos', which had wandered into the camp, also from Wiawira. They can certainly travel.

SNAKES

Up near the old golf club house site, Barry came across a **deadly poisonous black mulga snake** with a bearded dragon lizard half-way down it's throat. It was backed against a bush and had the lizard hard up against another bush forcing the lizard down it's throat. What an unforgettable sight. We spoilt it's lunch as it disgorged the lizard while we were watching the display.

That night we ate dozens of yabbies as an entree.



A table full of yabbies before the feast.

TRACK REPAIR

Radium Hill had already received nearly 10 inches of rain for the year by mid March. The track was a **washed out guttered mess** and the Rifle Range dam had blown it's bank. How were we to get out to Radium Hill at Easter?

The track repair was a job too big for the few "ageing fossil volunteers" to handle just armed with picks, shovel, trailer and enthusiasm.

A phone call from out of the blue with an incredible offer.

Tony Hanson from A & M Hanson Civil, would provide a 15 ton tip truck, a big bob-cat and driver Andrew Maraz to repair the 25km of track as a donation to us.

The wash-out at Black Hill dam was fixed with 45T of rubble, gutters filled in and the crown of the track removed all the way out to Radium Hill, a 13 hour day. The following day, **150T of rubble plus 45T of rock** was placed in the vicinity of the boundary gate.

Gee, Tony can really operate a big skid steer bob-cat.

Poetry in motion as he screamed into the dirt heap, swivelled with a full bucket and spread it before you could say "Jack Robinson". He then **pirouetted that bob-cat** like a ballet dancer and then back for another load, compacting the ground as he went.

Mesmerising stuff.

He also fixed the track to the cemetery and stockpiled about 100T of rubble for later use. Three men, three full 12+ hour days, 270lt of bob-cat fuel and the job was done.



A 15T load of rock fill at the washed out boundary gate.



The repaired track at the boundary gate.

From all of us, a big thank you to Tony and driver Andrew.

EASTER 2012

Mick and Jan Roffey had arrived early and had the camp to themselves for a few days before the crowd started rolling up.

Good Friday and the camping area was alive with people. We also installed the plaques for John Baxter and Frank Pignitter at the cemetery in readiness for the interment of their ashes on Saturday. Unfortunately it was too windy to put up the big 4m square screen for showing the pictures. Ron Tame, Jamie Harratt and helpers solved the problem with a **dash of ingenuity**. They roped the two 7 foot folding tables on top of each other, put them on the trailer, covered them with sheets and 'BINGO' we now had a wind safe movie screen. Great job fellows.

A sing-a-long with 'Janni on the pianni' and 'Mick the Mexican' (Mick and Jan Roffey) got the crowd revved up for the film "RED DOG" where our own Tony Averay was a cast member.



Rear view of the 'screen'.

Saturday dawned, the wind had dropped and it was off on a 'Tag-a-long' heritage tour around the town and mine area.

At 12 noon everyone had gathered at the **Radium Hill Pioneer Cemetery** for the interment of Franz Pignitter and John Baxter's ashes. Margot Binkowski and Kerry Pinch gave a eulogy about the life of 'Frankie'. His ashes were

then placed beneath his head stone to the strains of 'Eidelweiss'.



Frankie's head stone.

John Baxter had wanted his ashes placed in the grave with his son John Jnr who had passed away as the result of a vehicle accident in 1956. Kevin Kakoschke spoke of John's life, of when he was in the British navy on the Arctic run during the war and as his skill as a mechanic. To the nostalgic song and bagpipes playing, **'I'm no awa to bide awa'**, his ashes were placed beneath a beautiful head stone on which a cameo photo of John had been installed.



John Baxter and son's grave

The 'BASIC LIFE SKILLS' session conducted by Debbie Kakoschke was extremely interesting. The highlight of her talk and demonstrations was when Barry Kakoschke 'acting' as her guinea pig and **'playing dead'** was

to have been given external heart massage. He lay stretched out on a table. Lindsay Keam jumped in with a set of car booster cables and was about to clamp them onto Barry's nipples before switching on the current to 'Zap' him when Barry sat bolt upright.



Debbie demonstrating (?) on Barry who was about to be zapped by Lindsay.

The power of the mind.

No way was he going to have those **fierce alligator clamps attached to his nipples and then be 'zapped'**.

Enjoy life now - It has an expiration date.

Potential fires can be a hazard when camping. Colin Peryman, ably assisted by James Harratt set up a great demonstration of how to use fire extinguishers in such a situation. Everyone had a go at using them to douse the flames whether they be oil, grass or just rubbish. Thanks fellows.

We all have had trouble using the mobile phone in outback locations. Telephone technician Arthur Singe from Victoria, talked us through the do's and don'ts of how to get the best results from the phone in such circumstances. Very informative.

An **original Radium Hill barber**, Kevin Kakoschke gave Wolf Fellegger a hair-cut similar to those he gave him all those 50 odd years ago. Neat.

Karen Kakoschke had donated **three beautiful aboriginal paintings** and Kym Ford an 'insect repellor' for the auction. Karen had actually watched the Tennant Creek artist do the paintings over a three week period. It was a pity that we didn't have EFTPOS facilities available for use by the painting's admirers who would have **bid big bucks** to get them. The raffle was a huge success thanks to all who donated prizes. Franz Tomasin dressed as a sailor strolled around the camp playing popular tunes on his piano accordion as a prelude of what was to come. It certainly set the entertainment scene for the night's events.

In the gloom of dusk, a brilliantly lit ute glided onto the School camp ground driven by Jim Krecu. 'Red Dog' posters adorned the sides. Lo and behold on the back was none other than our Tony with a real red dog 'Annie' being nursed by owner Lucy Keam. Cameras were **flashing in wild abandon** to capture the moment of our movie star. Terrific.

Just as the noise started to ease off, the loud speakers boomed out the song, 'Who Let the Dogs Out'. **'Someone or something' pranced** onto the 'stage area' swinging a dog catcher's net and bawling out 'Who let the Dogs Out' as he rushed and jiggled around the clearing looking for stray dogs. It was our bush comedian, Barry Kakoschke **dressed up as I don't know what** doing his thing to the laughter and clapping by the crowd.

Things quietened down to hear the colourfully dressed, Margot Binkowski singing 'Manyana'. Very nice. Ann Domerdich, dressed as if she was walking, sweetly rendered the song,

'Walking After Midnight' at only 8 o'clock. Well done Ann.

Christmas is a time when old friends gather to share goodwill. It's too hot in Radium Hill at Xmas, so Jan and Mick Roffey (The Non-conformists dressed as 'Father Xmas') brought the festive season to Radium Hill at Easter where old friends had gathered. A novel idea epitomising the general friendship existing between those attending.



The 'Non-conformists'.

Margot Binkowski, as Nana Mouskouri's twin and dressed in a kaftan and dark rimmed glasses entered the spotlight. She sang, 'I Had a Dream' to perfection.

'Australia's Got Talent' hopefuls, little Lara Sisson and Georgia Materne sang a duet, 'Someone Like You'. So sweet.

You've heard of people getting tied up in knots? Well **Robert Bennett as a magician**, is just the man to do it. His swift hands soon had a couple so hog-tied that they didn't know whether they were 'Arthur or Martha' as they tried to free themselves. They finally gave up in despair wherein Robert just **pulled a couple of 'strings'** and they were free. Mind blowing.

'In The Navy', what a fantastic performance. Six females dressed as sailors and led by their captain Jim Krecu conducted a recruitment drive amongst the audience. The **bouncy song and choreographed movements** had the audience

clapping and stamping for more. (P.S. They later received a booking to perform in an Adelaide club before an **audience of 450** people).

An extremely good performance, congratulations.

A **plain looking Susan Boyle**, entry No.4321, straight from Scotland, entered the spotlight. It was a delight to hear her answering questions of why she had decided to perform at Radium Hill in her broad Scottish accent. Our senses were blown away when we were privileged to hear her sing, 'I Dreamed A Dream'. Thank you Susan, (alias June Kakoschke).



Entry No. 4321, Susan Boyle.

BEAUTY CONTEST

The desert dunes of outback Australia were scoured to select the four finalists in the 'Berka Belle Beauty' contest. The oasis at Kalabity produced Kevina, Rodina was from Roopeena, Lindsina from Lilydale and Barina from Bimbowie.

Jan Roffey had composed special Eastern music for the finalists to strut their stuff. There was no holding them back as the first chords of the music hit the ear-drums. **The 'Yollering', swirling gowns and wild gestures**, made it

difficult for the judges to finally choose Rodina as the 'Beautiful Berka Belle 2012'. Rodina was 'sashed' by Lois Harvie and Sandy Dumont presented her with a sheath of flowers which she had crafted, comprising saltbush adorned with purple flowering **sprigs of 'deadly nightshade'**.

Once more the pyrotechnic spectacular using '**magnesium wire' technology** was awesome. The booms, bangs and starry cloud bursts were choreographed to the music of '**The Warsaw Concerto**'. It concluded a great night's entertainment.

Many thanks to Karen Kakoschke for providing the display and Colin Peryman and helpers. Just fantastic.

Sunday dawned and it was up to the Catholic Church ruins for **Easter thanks giving**. There is something special about that setting at Easter when Pam Barratt leads the group in remembrance and thanks giving.

An early lunch and then a tag-a-long to the **Maldorkys via Galls Well**. Kym Ford provided some excitement when he drove too close to a wash-out. Down he went onto the chassis, one wheel in fresh air. A little digging, a retrieval winch and he was free.

Back at the camp site Peter and James Harratt had **boned out a kangaroo** for Ashley Materne to **brew a stew**. After a slow simmering it was dished up, **tasted, and the verdict, 'blooming fantastic'**.

June and Margot had cooked two **terrific birthday dampers** for the birthday celebrations. They were covered with lashings of butter, golden syrup or jam & cream. Just delicious, yum!

OBITUARIES

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

Andrews, Rosemary Sydney NSW
Ashmeade, Barbara Crystal Brook, SA

Barratt, Chris Adelaide SA
Cerar, Stan Alexandra Hill, Qld
Fabijancic, Zorko Salisbury SA
Ford, David Gawler SA
Jackson, Norton Adelaide SA
Kerbl, Franz Vaterftetten Germany
Kumar, Guido Salisbury SA
Lloyd, Roger Sydney NSW
Lloyd, Stella Adelaide SA
Mellen, "Bill" Adelaide SA
Peryman, Rosa Adelaide SA
Potts, James Porongorup WA
Principe, Antonio Adelaide SA
Rees, Gwyn Georgetown Tas
Ware, Gabrielle Adelaide SA
Williams, Jean Pt. Lincoln SA

Norton Jackson AM, designed and managed the construction of the Radium Hill & Pt. Pirie ore processing mills.

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

MUSEUM DISPLAYS

An unusual addition to the Museum is the **display of processed uranium "yellow cake" samples**. One sample is from Port Pirie where the Radium Hill ore was processed, courtesy of Andrew Jeffrey, another from the Honeymoon project of the 1970's, courtesy of Andy Treloar, and the third is part of the **very first produced in the 1950's** at Mary Kathleen, Queensland, courtesy of Ian Schomburgk who had been a metallurgist there and also at Port Pirie. They join the Radium Hill 'Davidite' and 'Carnotite' uranium samples which were part of the Sir Douglas Mawson collection.



Museum; Uranium & Yellowcake display

EASTER 2013 PROGRAM

Dr. & six nurses in attendance.
Camp sites; first in best dressed.
Friday pm, 6.30pm Sing-a-long
 and the **Non Conformists.**
7.30pm, Drive-in Movie,
"THE SAPHIRES"

Saturday am, Tag-a-long.
12 noon, Ashes interment of Steve
 Kumar and Ron Andrews.
2pm 'Basic life skills' and craft.
7pm Auction and giant raffle.
More raffle items needed.
'GHOST TOWN CABARET'
at 7.30 may include a **special hot**
appearance of 'Tony Abbott and
 Julia Gillard'.
'KISS',
'CATS', get your own cat outfit
 ready. **plus your act,** join in the
 fun and excitement.
 Singers galore, a pyrotechnic
 extravaganza. Wow!
Sunday 8.30am Easter service.
Paddy melon bowls.
PM -Tag-a-long adventure trail.
 Evening, **goat stew and damper.**

MEMORY JOGGERS

* Please contact June, our secretary if
 you change your address or hear of
 any ex-Radium Hill resident who
 may have passed away.
 ***Fill up with fuel** at either Yunta or
 Broken Hill. A fridge is available at
 our campsite for food and drinks.

*Order your **Iron-on Radium Hill-**
monograms from our Secretary, just
 \$5 each which includes postage. A
 nice souvenir Radium Hill cap (\$10)

and DVDs (\$25) will be available at
 the camping ground.

***Write a comment in the guest
 book section of our new web
 site. View it at
 www.radiumhill.org**

*The Olary Oasis Hotel host is Sam
 McLeod, 08 8091 1856. Dianne
 Hight Ph. 08 8650 5904 hosts the
 Mannahill Hotel. They are nice
 people providing ice, drinks, eats, and
 accommodation.

*Sign the visitor's book at the
 Museum, pick up your RH site map
 and **Heritage trail brochure** from
 the map box at the 'R. H. bitumen'.

*Bring along your **UHF set** (we
 communicate on channel 30),
 prospecting pick, binoculars, bathers,
 cameras, etc. (40 chairs are on site)

*Pick up and **pin on your name tag,**
 it helps to 'break the ice'.

* **Rubbish, you bring it in, you take
 it out.** Leave the camp site neat and
 tidy (its appreciated).

*Contact Andy Treloar if you want to
 stay in the shearer's quarters over
 Easter.

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

*If you intend calling into Radium
 Hill other than at this Easter, please
 write or phone both Andy Treloar,
 Tikalina Stn. via Olary, Ph.08 8091
 1529 and Maurice Francis, Oulnina
 Stn, via Mannahill Ph. 08 8650 5901.



A big horned billy goat on Mulga Hill



Decked out as an explorer, little Lara Sisson screams, 'Grand-dad, I see a goat'.



A black mulga snake shoving a bearded dragon lizard down it's throat.



Barry the dog hunter. Scary!



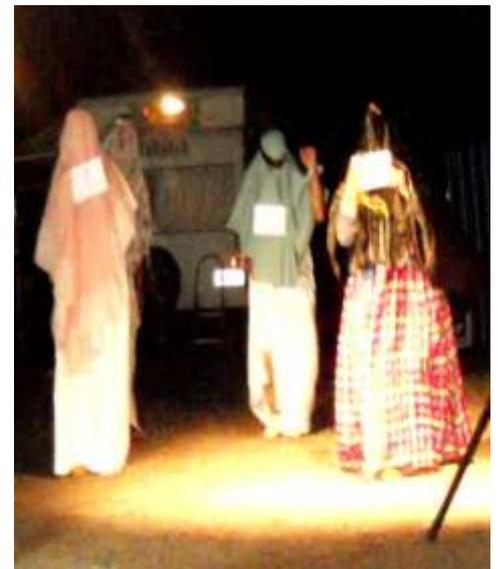
The brilliant entry of "RED DOG" Tony Averay , and the red dog "Annie" held by owner Lucy Keam



Margot Binkowski as Nana Miskouri



'In the Navy' L to R: Captain Jim Krecu, and recruits Ann Domerdich, Debbie Kakoschke, Pam Barratt, Margot Binkowski, June Kakoschke and Lois Harvie.



The 'Berka Belles' KevinKakoschke, Lindsay Keam, Barry Kakoschke and Rod Lawrence

See you at Radium Hill, Easter 2013, for the adventure, excitement and entertainment. Thank you for reading this Newsletter.