

THE RADIO ACTIVITY NEWS BULLETIN

For Information of ex-Radium Hill Community and Families

Official Organ of the Radium Hill Historical Association Inc.

MAY 2025

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We Are Radium Hill

HELLO FROM THE PRESIDENT JIMI KRECU

Greetings once more, everyone! It's amazing how swiftly another year has passed. I have noted that we are all older, fatter, thinner, balder, blinder, deafer, slower and in my case you can add, not any wiser, however my nose is still growing....But seriously we are who we are and it's so good that as the Radium Hill Community we come together regularly to catch up in person, online via our Facebook group or by this annual newsletter, I hope everyone is well. It was great to catch up with everyone who attended the Radium Hill reunion in October 2024.

Our AGM was held in December 2024, which saw Jennie Tippet wanting to step down from the role of Secretary, moving onto greener pastures in Melbourne. On behalf of the committee and our community we wish Jennie all the best and thank her for her dedicated hard work donating her many skills and time contributing to the smooth running of the RH committee. Jennie will however remain as treasurer an important part of the RH community. I would like to welcome Tammy Morris as our new Secretary who will be transitioning slowly into this role with the support of Jennie. The rest of the board members were re-elected, unopposed, whose hard work we continue to appreciate.

NOTES FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PHILLIPS

Another year has come and gone yet the spirit of the Radium Hill Historical Association persists, steadfast and enduring. Another successful reunion was held at Glandore on the 20th October, with approximately 65 people in attendance.

Glandore has proven to be a very popular venue for our reunions and we plan to continue to hold them there in the future. Many people spoken to expressed their desire to continue to hold the reunions on an annual basis.

Amongst the people in attendance there were several people in their 90's, which is an indication that we're all getting older and also emphasises the strong community spirit that still exists. It was great to see the four Rogers boys reunited after a lengthy period of separation.(refer pic)

Catering for the occasion was simplified this year by providing a simple BBQ, with delicious sausages and onions being consumed and soft drinks for a simple gold coin donation. It was well received by all those in attendance.

Thanks, and recognition were given to the head cook Wolfgang and his able assistants Kurt Kube, Mia & Jamie Krecu. Thanks also are due to Jimi for the overall organization of the event and special thanks to Jenny Tippet for her ongoing assistance and her excellent efforts in taking tickets, organizing the raffle and other administrative duties on the day.

At the end of the afternoon, everyone pitched in to store away the chairs and tables and return the hall to its previous condition. As people left the event, there were many farewells with the addition of "see you next year".

HELLO FROM OUR NEW SECRETARY TAMMY MORRIS

I was born in Radium Hill on the 4th May 1959, the third of 4 girls born there to my parents Johann (John) and Evelyn Rainer. We always joke that there was obviously no TV as we were all born within 3yrs and 10 months....Mum would have been very busy.....

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My sisters Karin (born 1/11/1956), Paula (born 19/1/58), then me (4/5/1959) and Wendy (born 9/9/1960) all maintain an avid interest in Radium Hill but were very young when the township was closed down so we rely heavily on photos and stories from other residents for information about time there.

Dad had migrated out from Austria and was one of many foreigners working there.

We, along with multiple other families moved from RH to Wittenoom Gorge after the closure of RH which as we now know, was not a safe move for anyone. (Our Mum amongst many others passed away from mesothelioma contracted from the blue asbestos there). From there, we had stints in Kalgoorlie and Bullfinch in WA before settling in Port Lincoln.

We all completed our schooling in Port Lincoln and still maintain close friendships there despite none of us living there for some time. John and I spent most of our working life there (John in the aviation industry, myself in the health industry) and we raised our boys in PL. We moved to Adelaide in 2007 for both of our careers. We are now both retired.

We are lucky enough to have our boys, their partners and 3 of our 5 grandsons here in Adelaide but still love country life and miss having a sea view. We love travelling, and try to get away as often as time, commitments and finances permit.

I am looking forward to my involvement in the RH committee and hope to hear from many ex- residents who have stories to tell and photos or memorabilia to share.

Due to my limited time in the town and young age when we left in 1961, I will be appreciative of all the help I can get to be a useful member of the committee and hope I can do the role of secretary justice after the magnificent work done by Jennie and co and their tireless efforts to help keep things going.

OBITUARIES

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of the following Radium Hill Community members this past year:

Rod Lawrance.... original committee member from day 1, a real trooper and always ready to help out

Bette Fettle... along with the husband Bob was an original 1991 committee member

Pat Brooks (Colley)....
Sandor Szucs (Alex)....
Seamus Fleming.....

Condolences to the families on behalf of the Radium Hill Historical Association.

STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR ACCESS TO RADIUM HILL TOWNSHIP

As you may all be aware, efforts to seek access continues assisted by Geoff and Brian Tattersall and myself, for access/visiting rights to the Radium Hill cemetery. We met with Dept Officials on 28th March 25 who are being helpful within their delegation to do so, The issue remains that a lease holder is declining access. Following those discussions with the Dept it is now proposed to refer the matter to the responsible minister. And as such there remains no public access of any sort to Radium Hill.

Please respect this.

RADIUM HILL MUSEUM VISIT BY JIMI 5 April 25

I went up to Peterborough to revisit the Radium Hill Museum with the aim of photographing the existing exhibit and attempting to start an inventory of the exhibit contents.

It is great to see the care and responsibility that the Peterborough Railway Museum Board and staff have for our exhibit.

For those who are not aware the Radium Hill Museum continues to be located within the Peterborough Railway Museum and will be for the foreseeable future where their security

and cameras can help protect the exhibit.

The staff have informed us of the disappointing loss of an item/s previously displayed on the wall of the museum that was removed quite openly by persons who claimed to be family members of an ex-radium hill resident who donated the item/s freely to the museum.

This has led to the exhibit being locked and only being opened when supervised tours are occurring. This is currently the only way the donated items can be protected and respected.

Visitors and family are reminded like all museums of historical mementos and artifacts of a particular era, that they are donated for preservation and memory of that time. It is this respect that allows RSL museums with important personal donated items, important not only to the families who have donated them but also for history, allowing a story to be told through their display. I feel we should as the Radium Hill community have the same duty and respect of our items donated by individuals wanting their story to be remembered.

Please note we are always gratefully accepting mementos and keepsakes that will remind us all of the glory days of Radium Hill.

On a lighter note please if you have not visited before or its been a while please go, sign the visitors book and give us any feed back.

From reviewing the visitors book, it's great to see how many people have visited with no prior knowledge of Radium Hill. They have commented about the artefacts on display, giving a snap shot in to the day to day life in Radium Hill but also having been amazed that ... **Australia's first Uranium mine : Was Radium Hill**



REMEMBERING RADIUM HILL REUNION

Remembering Radium Hill will be held this year on Sunday, 19th October 2025, start up time 1pm at: Glandore Community Centre, Naldera Street, Glandore.

Come along and help celebrate 71 years since Radium Hill's official opening.

It will be a chance to catchup, reminisce and enjoy.

In the past members photos and memorabilia have been very popular so if you have something of interest please bring it along. There will also be the very popular photo display set along the walls.

No empty tummies here ... as a sausage sizzle for a gold donation has been organised with master chefs from the committee manning the barbecue.

If possible, it would be appreciated to bring a sweet plate to share (cake, biscuits, etc) Soft drinks, tea, coffee and water will be available.



Radium Hill Cookies Donated
by Bob Mansfield

MEMORIES BY MEMBERS

By Ian Lambert

I lived in Radium Hill from 1956 to 1959 and was at boarding school in Adelaide during that time so all my memories were when I was home during the school holidays. I had a job at Millings cool drink factory...a tin shed next to Penngily's garage and spent the day washing dirty cool drink bottles. George would come in after work and refill them and deliver them to the outlets where customers could "Buy Millings and save Shillings" He was only competing with Coca-Cola!! When our supply of bottles was running low George would "find" a source of dirty bottles which needed to be washed ready for refilling. Most of the bottles were really dirty and

needed a lot of scrubbing to clean them and bring them up to scratch. However, if any bottles had dead mice in them, I was instructed not to clean them and throw the bottle in the bin. That was our "OCC Health and Safety" programme. I enjoyed working at Radium Hill and look forward to reminiscing with ex residents in the future

Note:... Ian is the 100th member of our Facebook page....we are Radium Hill... How wonderful to have people still keen to join the group.....

By Rob Glasson

My father Ken Glasson was the chief geologist and we lived at Radium Hill in 1952 and 1953. We had the 3rd house to be occupied by a family. The first house accommodated nurses from Far West Mission ran by the Presbyterian Church.

Mum, Jim (born in January 1952) and I followed Dad to Radium Hill in August 1952 once the house was finished and I started schooling 1953. Our groceries were delivered each week by truck and our meat was also delivered weekly in a large calico bag with our name on it. The water was brackish, impossible to lather and bought in by a road tanker and we had to be very economical with it. On Sundays we usually packed lunch and friend into the Land Rover for a picnic in a dry sandy creek bed. Pat Colley was Dad's draftswoman and a family friend.

Note:.. Rob Glasson has been a generous supporter and donator of the association for many years.....

By...Eileen Kennedy

RADIUM HILL....1956-1959 Evolves a kaleidoscope of memories for me even though those years were, in the scheme of things, such a minute number in my life. Living on a corner block on the Avenue with little in the back yard except castor oil bushes and dirt which quickly turned to dust when the ferocious wind blew. I would look with envy at Mrs Pengilly's wonderful array of plants and flowers. Living opposite the Andrews family I think of 5 boys was an experience itself. Walking past Sergeant Colligans house making sure to be doing the right thing. The AIM hospital with it nurses dressed in uniform complete with head gear was

a place which I remember only visiting once.

Going to the post office to pickup very welcome mail. Walking up the hill to the swimming pool clad in bathers with a towel slung over the shoulder and generally bare feet...beware of 3 cornered jacks. No hat nor sunscreen in those days. The excitement of going to the walk-in cinema, meeting friends along the way often with a bottle of water, not to drink but to cool the extremities of the body. Winter necessitated woolly hats and blankets. Summer was 'stinking hot' and Winter 'bitterly cold'.

School was a walk across a paddock. Staff were Mr Raymond, Miss Cochran, Miss Wallace and my sister Miss Lambert. I, as a 12 year old was in class 6/7 where "the big boys" as I considered them, Rainer, Helmut and Spog hung out waiting until they turned 14 and eligible to enter the work force. They were a great help in winter as they were the wood monitors and appeared to spend most mornings chopping wood to keep the fires burning in the 4 classrooms. The older girls, including me would be sent down to assist the junior grade teachers with the reading and spelling for the littlies.

As there was no High School available the majority of children at 14 left school and began their working life. I was sent to boarding school and would travel by train to Adelaide each school term. The 11km spur line from the township to Cutana where it would connect to the Broken Hill train. Such excitement when anybody left the town as friends would congregate to say goodbye. Steam trains were the order of the day so it was not wise to put one's head out the window!

Such an eclectic group of people from many different countries with many different languages who generally appeared to meld together and enjoy the wide open spaces and the little outback town. Friendships were made so many years ago and are still continuing today.



MY ODE TO RADIUM HILL by Allan Cresswell

Here is part of the Ode:

The hill, The tank seems far away
Of course, we know it's there today
Open theatre to your right, movies
watched by us at night.
We became friends from being
individuals and we build a community
spirit
That was Radium Hill

DID YOU KNOW

- In 1906 A.J.Smith mistook a dark coloured ore for Tin and inadvertently made the first discovery of a radioactive material at Radium Hill .Later Sir Douglas Mawson identified uranium within the sample and named it davidite after the late Sir Edgeworth David
 - Between 1949 -1952 S.A. Housing trust was commissioned to build approx.145 mostly prefabricated houses .
 - In the 1950s, the **AAEC** took over operations to develop uranium for export, contributing to the Western alliance's nuclear capabilities during the Cold War.
 - During the 1950s, uranium from Radium Hill was exported under agreements with the **United Kingdom** and **United States** to fuel their **nuclear weapons programs**.
 - In the early 50's it was necessary to obtain an entry permit to enter Radium-Hill....does anyone remember before flying over Radium Hill township all the blinds on the aeroplane had to be pulled down....so secretive.
 - In 1954 The Radium Hill Project was the first mining organization in Australia to take to court the matter of manning light air-leg mounted rock drills .
 - 70 Years ago in 1955 there were 14 babies born at the AIM Hospital....a total of 117 babies were born between 1953 and 1961
 - The 2006 re-union at the old townsite campground had a barbecue chop and sausage
- With a combination of 11 years of effort and 1000's of hours of voluntary labour the Radium Hill Museum was opened in 2007 in one of the outbuildings of Tikalina station. It is now housed at the Railway Museum in Peterborough and well worth the effort on visiting.
 - After the township closed all buildings were sold and dismantled and the sites levelled. The "wet Canteen" was re-located to Yalata Labour Prison, the lockup to Olary and the Golf Club shed to Yunta Hotel. Sheehan's store went to Cockburn and the Buff hall to Peterborough. Rumour has it one of the workshop buildings is now the yacht club at Andamooka. Wonder if any are still standing today.
 - The Supper Cloth: 107 ladies paid 2 shillings each to have their signature embroidered onto a supper cloth. It is now framed and displayed at the museum at Peterborough.
 - About 100 people were naturalised during their time living at Radium Hill
 - 160 houses were built, 2, 3 and 4 bedrooms. Timber framed and asbestos clad. Cold in winter and very hot in Summer.
 - The Catholic School was opened in February 1958 with 76 students.
 - The Townsite and Cemetery are both individually Heritage listed in 2017.

GENERAL AGM 2025

The annual General Meeting for the Radium Hill Association will be held in November with a date to be advised. If you wish to be part of this committee intent on preserving the history of Radium Hill please contact

sizzle. You could buy a meal ticket for \$7 which consisted of 2 lamb chops, a couple of sausages, onions and bread on a plate.

Jimi Krecu, President or Mike Phillips, Vice President of RHHA.....

Or check the face book site.

MUSEUM UPDATE.

As Previously mentioned, to the best of my knowledge the museum will now be staying put in the security of the Peterborough Railway Museum grounds ,,,,

WE ARE RADIUM HILL FACEBOOK SITE

Our Facebook site....**We Are Radium Hill**....is going really well since it's conception 18 months ago with now 107 members and growing. It is interesting to note the increase of members whose Grandparents lived and worked at Radium Hill. I think this shows how important it is to keep the Historical Association going and the Facebook page will be the future of the Radium Hill Historical Association. To join you must have a connection to Radium Hill and supply your email address for the purpose of receiving the digital copy of the newsletter to **john.tammy.morris@gmail.com**

WE WERE RADIUM HILL DIGITAL NEWS BULLETIN

Do you have an email address? Last year, in 2024, the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter (nearly 350 copies) amounted to over \$1,000. We can save significantly if we send the newsletter via email whenever possible. For those members that are still receiving printed newsletters or those that have changed their email address over the last couple of years, please contact us with your current email address. To ensure that your contact details are up to date simply send your email address to: **john.tammy.morris@gmail.com**

.....DON'T FORGET.....
RADIUM HILL REUNION 2025
Remembering Radium Hill
Sunday 19th October 2025
Start time 1pm
Glandore Community Centre
Naldera Street, Glandore.
Please Mark this date in your calendar!



Sandra Dumont Committee Member with a Radium hill cookie



Tammy Morris, Barb Burgess, Karin Pearce, Shelley Brown



Pam Barrett and Jennie Tippet selling Raffle Tickets



The Raffle Prizes That were kindly donated



Memories linger as stories are shared, recalling the golden days of Radium Hill.



June Kakoschke biting into and enjoying a gourmet sausage sizzle



A shared sense of nostalgia brings everyone together, recalling the great moments spent at Radium Hill.



John Rodgers Barry Rogers Ged Rogers Peter Rogers



Kurt Kube Wolf Fellager Jamie Krecu & Mia Krecu working hard serving all those people waiting for those gourmet Snags



Kurt Kube Wolf Fellager Jamie Krecu & Mia Krecu working hard still cooking away all those lovely gourmet Snags



Jamie Brown, Brian Tattersall & Mike Phillips enjoying a gourmet sausage



Graham West May West Megan West



Pauline Harrott and Margo Fellager



Brian Gibbins Pauline Pinch Kerry Pinch



Shelley Brown Barb Burgess Bob Burgess



Bob Mansfield