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Radio Activity

-----NEWS BULLETIN-----

Official Organ of the Radium Hill Historical Association Inc. For Information of Ex Radium Hill Community and families

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CONTACT NAMES

Kevin Kakoschke (President)
KURRALTA PARK
South Australia 5037
Phone +61 (0)8 82932375

June Kakoschke (Secretary)
KURRALTA PARK
South Australia 5037
Phone +61 (0)8 82932375
E-mail kevjune @chariot.net.au

Margot Binkowski (Treasurer)
RIDGEHAVEN 5097
Phone +61 (0)8 82633984

This news letter design is
in keeping with the original
style used in Radium Hill and
was produced by

June Kakoschke

Hello there,

It is now 10 years since we had our first Reunion at Radium Hill and at the Glandore Community Centre in Adelaide. Weren't they terrific! The Easter 2000 Reunion at Radium Hill was also a great success with over 140 people attending during the Easter period. Some of the folk who attended certainly had some exciting and never to be forgotten experiences, which grew in stature every time they were repeated around the campfire at night. We have had many requests for "news" regarding the Reunion activities and a few of those events are detailed in this newsletter especially for the folk who were unable to attend.

In response to suggestions from some of our more senior friends, yes, we will be having a Reunion in Adelaide on Sunday 29th April, 2001. Should be quite an occasion and an event not to be missed. It will be forty years since the Radium Hill Uranium Mine closed in 1961.

The following pages once again 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
February, 2001

EASTER 2000 REUNION DEBRIEFING

Firstly our thanks must go to the committee members for their sterling efforts. Also everyone who attended the reunion and to the many people who helped in numerous ways and in some cases under stressful conditions

in helping make the event such an outstanding success.

In March Neil Gobbett, Jim McDiarmid and I travelled up to Radium Hill to install the "Jim Karagiannis" Memorial Gate at the cemetery. We also took a lawn mower up with us and "Jims Mowing Service" (Jim McDiarmid) mowed the cemetery bindii lawn. Freshly mown bindii certainly has a distinctive odour.

On the Thursday/Friday before Easter, 2 ½" of rain had fallen in the Radium Hill area, and more rain on the Sunday. Because of the wet conditions we decided to go up to Radium Hill on the Tuesday rather than the Sunday to prepare for the Reunion 2000. Well, just north of Burra we experienced our first locust splat on the windscreen, which reminded us of the yarn, "What is the last thing to go through a grasshoppers brain when it hits the windscreen?" At various places along the road to Radium Hill we encountered many more swarms which resulted in whirlwinds of splats, carnage, and windscreens running with colour. What a mess!!

Approaching Tikalina Homestead late afternoon we noticed a vehicle and caravan apparently bogged on the saltbush flats and another rig (Dean Viney) also bogged on the

Radium Hill track near the Woolshed. Speaking to Andy Treloar and more bad news, the grader didn't even make it to the track and was bogged for the duration. Neil and Coralie Gobbett had arrived in Radium Hill the Thursday night just before the rain and were still marooned at the Radium Hill Camping ground.

The next Radio Activity News
Bulletin will be published in February
2002

Next morning we set off in the cruiser for Radium Hill and after much digging, shovelling, slipping and sliding we finally made it much to the surprise of Neil and Coralie. With the track drying out all the time and with some more repairs we reckoned that we could have it passable by Thursday for conventional vehicles and vans. Back at the homestead we hitched up and in convoy we made it to Radium Hill. **HALLELUJAH!!**

THURSDAY & FRIDAY 20th & 21st

April, Margot Binkowski, Pam Barratt, June Kakoschke and Jan Roffey, painted the cemetery fence, gates, and grave surrounds while Trevor Morrison and I installed the commemorative plaques. Mick & Jan Roffey headed the road repair team which spent 64 man hours doing up the track. Frank Binkowski was in charge of the wood gatherers while Bill Davis and gang did the lighting details. Tim Hullah shinned up the cemetery flagpole to secure the flag whilst video camera's whirred below him.

As more people arrived everyone seemed to "buck in" and get things done. It truly was a great cooperative effort spurred on by Mick Roffey's saying "go to the top of the mountain brother/sister**HALLELUJAH!!**" whenever any new difficulties arose. It certainly seemed to help.

A motor home deviated from the main track and went down to the chassis on its rear end. Trevor and I were getting a load of water from Teasdales Dam when we noticed their distress fires' smoke and

located the folk near the old rifle range. At the second snatch attempt the motor home took off like a bungy-jumper. Trevor said that the vehicle was completely airborne at one stage as it was catapulted from the bog.

Around the evening campfire, stories flowed thick and fast as folk joined in the "Remember When" times. Terrific atmosphere!

SATURDAY 22nd April, the big day. Ron Featherstone aged 76 years displayed a deft skill with the "banjo" when skimming weeds from around the Smith Monument. Ron had also

helped sink the original Main shaft in 1952/53. The golf course sand scrapes were weeded and oiled by the team headed by Peter Harratt in preparation for Sunday's Golf. Sandra Dumont placed red roses at the foot of each cemetery grave, the end result.....fantastic!

At 11.30am everyone gathered at the cemetery where Jim Krecu the nephew of Jim Karagiannis officially opened the "Jim Karagiannis Memorial Gate." Thanks Jim. It gave me great pleasure to invite Sandra Dawson to participate in the ceremony by unveiling the Cemetery Memorial Plaque depicting the circumstances of how those folk resting in the cemetery had lost their lives. Sandra, born in R.H., was also the daughter of the late Tom Harrop who rests in the cemetery. June Kakoschke sang her ever popular "Danny Boy" to conclude the ceremony. In that setting it certainly moistened the eyes.... just beautiful.

Tag-a-long tours proved to be very popular in the afternoon. Sights including the giant eagle's nest on tank hill, Olary Creek, and the 1997 flood aftermath were enjoyed by all. Bill Davis had procured a young goat and during the afternoon Don Harding had roasted it on a spit until it was done to a "very rare turn". BBQ meats and spit roast goat together with the

combined salads certainly made a fine feed that night.

Strings of overhead lights lit the camp area up like Broadway for the evening's entertainment. The first item was Gino Scopel playing his piano accordion, terrific! Pam Barratt, June Kakoschke and Margot Binkowski bumped and swayed with "Rum and Coca Cola." Very colourful! "I've Been Everywhere Man" performed by Margot and June certainly had

everyone tapping their feet. Pam accompanied by Trevor "Hips" Morrison provided a class act with "Big Spender." June's performance of "My Heart Will Go On" was superb. During the costume changes jokes and storytellers kept the crowd in fits of laughter.

Sandra Dumont, Jim McDiarmid and Bill Davis donated items for the giant

raffle where first prize was won by Harry Bale. Perhaps the highlight of the evening was the auction of donated items. Eleanor Westaway(McFadden was the auctioneer and Trevor "Hips" Morrison spiked with a little whisky acted as one of the spotters (urgers). "Radio Active Port," fetched \$70, some "F...Great Port," especially blended by Gino Scopel made \$65 and serving trays emblazoned with Radium Hill photographs and crafted by Harry Bale were knocked down for up to \$75. A special thanks to all donors, and bidders. A birthday damper was especially baked for Tim Hullah (16) and Tabettha Davis (14) to help celebrate their birthdays. It was interesting to note that "Art" Baillie at 92 ½ years of age and baby Krecu, just a few months old, spanned the ages of those who made it to the Reunion

SUNDAY 23rd April, early morning saw 30 people attend an Interdenominational Easter service at the entrance to the Catholic Church ruins. Pam Barratt conducted the service and was accompanied by Jan Roffey on her electronic keyboard, playing "Amazing Grace." A very moving moment.

Sixteen golfers hit off in the Radium Hill Open Golf classic which was won by Peter Harratt with the runner-up being John Wickham. Congratulations! The ladies one hole, one stick wonders competition was eventually won by Margaret Harratt. Terrific sports.

David and Johanna Munn accompanied by the "Austin Girls" Robyn and Sandra blazed a track out to the Maldorky's. Unfortunately the plane flights, black tie dinner, and the Luxemburg gold detecting trip had to be cancelled due to adverse conditions. We did attempt to detect Jenny Tippetts (nee Lacey) jar of coins buried long ago by the side of her house, but no luck. Similarly Mick Roffey had buried a tin of coins at his house in the Hawkesley area. We detected, but no tin,- wrong house,- no luck. Oh well, you can't find them all.

MONDAY 24th April, the highlight was definitely the trip out to the Maldorky's. We certainly got some

brilliant live footage of passenger reaction as the vehicles bounced, rocked, and rolled across washouts. At the Maldorky gorge we were greeted by a great number of water birds including a pair of black swans and their four cygnets, serenely floating on the stretch of water. The hills there are quite rough and rocky, yet beautiful in a rugged sort of way.

TUESDAY 25th April 2000 ANZAC DAY

Mick & Jan Roffey, Pam Barrett, and Trevor Morrison devised a very unique Anzac Day Commemorative Ceremony. Sandra Dumont had previously made an outstanding wreath from local leaves, flowers, bush and gumnuts. An Amazing result!
At 6.00am 35 people had made their way to the cemetery. A very moving ceremony was conducted

complete with music played on an electronic keyboard, taped "Last Post," raising and lowering of the flag and placing the wreath on the cairn. Excellent!

That night David and Johanna Munn replayed some of the video taken of the weekends highlights on their portable T.V. set. It was certainly different to see ourselves as others see us, and a fitting climax to a wonderful Reunion.

For many it wasn't easy to attend the Reunion but they made the effort, they came, they were young- again. I've versified a few words to try and capture some of that great spirit.

REUNION 2000

*To go or not to go,
what a dilemma*

Radium Hill 2000

I'll have to ask Emma

It's a long way to travel

on unmade roads

not even gravel

what with my.....

arthritis, bursitis,

some angina too,

emphysema, anaemia,

a tumour or two

leaking bladder.....

But they don't matter

we'll go

*With replaced hip
And new knee joints
all strutting around
the camping ground
we laughed and gagged
"till the inhalers found
The whispered reminders
were heard by few
"taken your pills.?"*

*To the Reunion we came
a stoic crew
salt of the earth,
In spite of our lot
we soon forgot
our medical pains
for we were.....
young again.*

I hope that by your having read this outline of the reunion activities, you too will feel that you have participated,.....just a little bit.

OBITUARY

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

Barton Rex , Peterborough SA
Brown Anthony, Newcastle NSW
Dickinson Sir S. Ben, Adelaide SA
Harrop David, Broken Hill N.S.W.
Hillier George, Canberra ACT
Jackson Mildred, Adelaide SA
Jaensch Ron, Cairns Qld.
Jocic Rade, Adelaide S.A.
Lavery Michael, Adelaide S.A.
Lewig Leonard, Adelaide S.A.
Maloney Alexander, Aspendale VIC
Mikellis Christodoulos, Adelaide S.A.
Principe Antonio, Adelaide S.A.
Miller Robert, Spokane U.S.A.
Pullem Lucy, Adelaide S.A.
Rivett Douglas, Blanchetown S.A.
Stevenson Alan, Adelaide S.A.
Ware Keith, Adelaide S.A.
Webb Bruce, Adelaide S.A.

Sir Samuel "Ben" Dickinson was the Director of the S.A. Dept. of Mines from 1944 till 1956. He worked closely with the then Premier Sir Thomas Playford and played a major role in the development of the Radium Hill Uranium Project. He was also a strong supporter of the Radium Hill Reunion Committee and its objectives. In the forward to our book, "We Were Radium Hill", he wrote, "Radium Hill is deserving of lasting recognition in the history of mining in Australia." He supported

Radium Hill being declared a Historical Site.

Bruce Webb A.M. was the Radium Hill mine geologist in 1954 and 1955. His future career encompassed his being the Director of the S.A. Dept. of Mines from 1972 till 1983, and Adelaide University Chancellor

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

R.H.H.A. COMMITTEE

At our last Annual General Meeting (usually held in Sept) Jim McDiarmid retired as Secretary/Treasurer. Jim was our inaugural secretary and after ten years of terrific service we extend a very warm thank you for your past efforts and look forward to your continuing support as a Committee member.

The following were elected as your representatives on the Radium Hill Historical Assn. Inc. Committee:

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|------------------|------------------|
| President | Kevin Kakoschke |
| Secretary | June Kakoschke |
| Treasurer | Margot Binkowski |

Committee Members:

Frank Binkowski, Pam Barratt, Bill Davis, Sandra Dumont, Betty Fettke, Neil & Coralie Gobbett, Peter Harratt, Malcolm Harrington, Phil Huddy, Jim & Margaret McDiarmid, Trevor Morrison, Murray &, Anne-Marie Richardson.

WHO IS "M.S.?"

In September a letter appeared in the Advertiser "What's Your Problem" section. The writer, whose initials were "M.S." from Berri, wanted to know details about Radium Hill as she was born there in 1959. We have had many calls about it but no one knows who "M.S." from Berri is. Are they the married initials of Margaret Bornholm who was born in Radium Hill? If some one knows the answer, please drop us a line.

BABY RADIUM

In a previous Newsletter I mentioned that the records indicated that 117 babies were actually born in the Radium Hill

A.I.M. hospital and that Cheryl Carss was the first born babe.

Well, Lorna Ley (Lively) of Peterborough was going through some old family papers and discovered that one of her uncles was born in Radium Hill in **1913**, to her grandparents John and Eliza

Lively who lived on the banks of Olary Creek while working in the Mine. They named their new born son.....**RADIUM Keith Lively.**

Unnnnnbelievable!!!! The family moved to Broken Hill when the Radium Hill mine closed in 1914 and unfortunately baby RADIUM died there in July 1917 aged four years.

HOUSE PLAQUES

There are now 62 street, house numbers, and occupants' name plates installed around the town and campsite. They add that human touch to the vacant sites and have proved to be a popular and informative attraction.

MUSEUM

The museum is certainly proving to be popular with visitors through depicting the life and times of Radium Hill. We appreciate the generosity of those folk who have added to the donation tin. Thank you! It all helps.

Dean Nicholson of Loxton has donated a copy of the Main Shaft headframe drawing which was drafted by his father.

"Art" Baillie has given us a "Restricted...Manual of Security Practices 1955" which was used at Radium Hill. Thank you!

In response to queries regarding "Gus the Goanna," yes..., he's O.K. and still occupies the basement of the museum.

ADELAIDE REUNION 2001

Sunday 29th April

In response to a survey conducted by Ron Tame and requests by phone and mail, yes... ,we will be holding another Radium Hill

Reunion in Adelaide, at the Glandore Community Centre, Clarke Tce, Glandore.

This venue is the same place we held our 1991 Reunion. It is certainly shaping up to be an exciting get together. Among the many folk who have already indicated that they hope to attend are:

Shirley Symons and Athlene Rickards: both being grand daughters of Arthur J. Smith who pegged the first mine claim at Radium Hill in 1906.

Lorna Ley: the daughter of Harry Lively, a miner at Radium Hill in 1912 and who had his heel taken off by an exploding detonator.

Betty Rodgers: The wife of the late Terry Rodgers who was the General Manager of the Radium Hill Project.

Bring along some of your Radium Hill Memorabilia, photographs etc.. Hopefully some recent videos may be shown of Radium Hill.

Please sign the Visitors Book when you arrive and pick up a name tag.

Please bring along a plate of afternoon tea to share and your own cup as tea & coffee will be supplied. Should be a good spread. A sign will be located on the corner of Naldera St. and Clarke Ave, Glandore to direct you to the Clarke Function Centre Hall, and on site parking areas.

MEMORY JOGGERS

- ❖ A number of folk will be camping at Radium Hill this Easter (Fri. 13th April 2001)
- ❖ Please send us the name and address of your children who were born at the Radium Hill AIM Hospital.
- ❖ If you intend calling into Radium Hill. please write or phone both Andy Treloar, Tikalina Stn. via Olary, AND Maurice Francis, Oulnina Stn, via Mannahill
- ❖ Adelaide Reunion 2001, Sunday 29th April, 1.30pm Glandore Community Centre.
- ❖ Please write or phone to indicate the number in your party who will be attending.
- ❖ Remember to bring a plate of afternoon tea and your cup.