THE RADIO ACTIVITY NEWS BULLETIN

For information of ex-Radium Hill Community and Families

Official Organ of the Radium Hill Historical Association Inc. April 2023

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Digital News Bulletin

Do we have your email address? This News Bulletin and any correspondence can be emailed directly to you. This method of communication saves on printing and postage costs. If you want this done in the future please advise Evan Lloyd Secretary.

The News Bulletin has been designed to a similar format to the original publication.

Hello from the President

Well, another year has come and gone. Where the hell did the old one go?

Since my last update, we have had the Radium Hill Reunion which was held on the 23rd of October 2022 at the Glandore Community Centre. Despite the poor weather it was an overwhelming success. We actually stopped counting at 140 people and unfortunately as is the way there were a few people that still couldn't make it, we are sorry you missed out on a great get together.

It was great to see all the old faces from Radium Hill and friends of Radium Hill in one place at one time. With the catching up of old friends, there was obviously lots of laughter, reminiscing of great old times... new and old stories shared, and I think I even saw a few tears shed by some... Also those who missed out on the always fun/awesome raffle and door prizes (maybe next time guys). Also great to see Kevin Kakoschke attend.

Some selected photographs of this event have been included in this publication. Other photographs will be placed on the Radium Hill Facebook in the near future.

Jimi Krecu, President

ABC Program *'Behind the News'*

In September 2022, the Committee was approached by two young film makers from the ABC who wanted to make a television series featuring old Australian 'ghost' towns.

They had decided that Radium Hill would be ideal for their pilot project which was to be presented to their management for approval prior to commencing with production of the series.

ABC representatives Nat Kelly and Joe Baronio have filmed interviews with several Committee members and also met a large number of residents at last year's reunion. They showed great interest and enthusiasm for Radium Hill and its history.

They have now finalised their full draft of the Radium Hill episode and are currently working through the approval process prior to production.

The Committee will be advised if the opportunity to preview the Radium Hill episode arises.

Mike Phillips, Vice-President

Radium Hill Mid Year Lunch

The Committee is proposing that an annual Mid Year Lunch FOR Radium Hill ex residents and friends be held in Adelaide on a much more casual basis, both to lessen the organisational burden on the Association and to provide a more social venue. The major reunions held at Glandore will still be held on future notice.

To commence this more casual gathering, we have booked an inaugural venue commencing:

- On 6 June 2023 at 12 midday
- In Scully's Bar at the Rex Hotel, Richmond Road, Marleston

Each attendee will purchase their own food and drink (see menu online).

The Radium Hill Historical Association (RHHA) will pay for the booking. In order to finalise the event, the Committee is seeking confirmation from RHHA ex residents and friends who are interested in attending.

Please forward your interest to
Mike Phillips - Phone: 0418 828 760
- Email: michael.phillips321@gmail.com
or Jennie Tippett - Phone: 0402 278 424
- Email: tippett.jennie@gmail.com

To assist in the organisation of the event, an early reply from those intending to attend would be appreciated.

Mike Phillips, Vice-President

Office Bearer Profile - *Here is the profile of the new Treasurer, Jennie Tippett:*

Hello there, I'm Jennie Tippett but 59 years ago I was Jennie Lacey. I am so happy to take on the role of treasurer of this amazing organisation called Radium Hill Historical Association.

In 1954, my parents, Jack and Pat Lacey with 4 kids in tow arrived in the then new township of Radium Hill. Our house was new, the yard bare and the fences yet to be erected, but this was the beginning of what was to be 7 wonderful years.

My father Jack was a miner and then shift boss. He worked also part time as barman at the Staff Mess. Dad was very involved with the gliding club and so the family spent many a weekend at the aerodrome. I can still visualise the carpet of Sturt Desert Peas found in that area.

In 1961 we left Radium Hill to go to Wittenoom W.A. 6 months was enough for us all in that miserable place and then Kalgoorlie…another 4 years in another great town…Dad by then was a contractor, sinking shafts in newly discovered mining areas that would soon have their own mining towns. Mum and Dad eventually settled in Armidale, NSW.

The bond for us all from Radium Hill has always remained strong with friendships and memories never forgotten.

Obituaries

It is with great sadness that the Radium Hill Historical Association advise of the passing of the following Radium Hill Community members:

- Rolton Bale
- Camilo Barilo
- Robert Apollina
- Jean Blackwood (nee Cresswell)
- Gwyneth Malthouse (nee Cresswell)
- Barbara Davis
- Des Rankin

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

AGM 2023

The Annual General Meeting for the Radium Hill Historical Association will be held in September, October 2023.

If you wish to be a part of a dynamic and progressive Committee tasked with preserving the history and memory of Radium Hill please contact Jimi Krecu, President. All are welcome. Please consider joining us on the committee.

Radium Hill Facebook

The Radium Hill Historical Association is redeveloping a revised Facebook page.

This social media forum will be specifically an opportunity for the ex Radium Hill community and families to share, commemorate the social history of this unique place.

The Facebook Page will be designed as a private group and if you wish to be a part of this group please advise Evan Lloyd Secretary.

Radium Hill Access Negotiations

Since early 2019, negotiations on behalf of the Association primarily around limited and programmed access to Radium Hill township and cemetery by former residents have been occurring with the multiple government agencies with responsibilities in our areas of interest of pastoral leases, cemeteries, the mine, heritage. Those negotiations have involved, at various times, Evan Lloyd, Brian and Geoff Tattersall, Jimi Krecu and Michael Phillips.

Progress has been frustratingly slow despite officers generally seeking to be helpful within their delegation to do so, but ultimately decisions are required by relevant ministers. Normal due process has been compounded by complications from an overlap in responsibilities of the various agencies involved and certainly not helped by changes in Government, Ministers, agencies and their officers over the last 3 years, not to mention Covid 19.

It is impractical to summarise the extensive correspondence and meetings involved but the current state of play is best described as:-

- Our objective has been to achieve with the Departments and lease holders an access agreement under terms agreeable to the lease holders. Those terms would be much more restricted than what has been in the distant past but better than what is the case now – no access
- The pastoral lease holders continue to decline public access to Radium Hill and despite requests to the Department for clarification, the Association remains unaware of what their concerns are.
- In Feb 2022, the then Minister declined to agree to agree to our request for access to Maldorky.
- Negotiations paused pending outcome of 2022 state election. A meeting with departmental officers occurred in Oct 2022 showed some promise of progress. Following that meeting another request was made to the Minister and advice has recently been received (Feb 2023) that she has approved a "once off" visit of designated representatives to undertake the specific tasks we had identified. The visit will be supervised by the Department. Plans for such a visit will soon be arranged and hopefully it can occur in the next 2 months. Positive progress.
- Arrangements for the cemetery remain unclear but will be pursued once some ongoing access to the Township is agreed.

We remain optimistic of a workable outcome but there are still obstacles to be overcome.

Geoff & Brian Tattersall

Radium Hill Museum - *Peterborough*

Radium Hill was an isolated outback mining community that thrived in the 1950's. This community amongst many attributes of mining was a unique social history setting.

To celebrate this community, there is a comprehensive display of memorabilia of the life and times of Radium Hill at the Steamtown Heritage Railway Centre at Peterborough.

All are welcome to view this display.

If you are interested, have experience or would like to assist with the collections curation of Radium Hill, please contact Evan Lloyd Secretary.

Radium Hill Reminiscing

I Remember, Jennie Tippett

I remember…Olary Creek, and the Labour Day family picnics. The mums spreading the blankets under the shade of those majestic gums in the creek and settling down for a chat and the Dads joining the men and every so often did a check on the wives with a beer in hand.

Meanwhile the kids raced off to join the fun and activities that were planned for them. I remember, during the treasure hunt finding (ok…I was told where it was planted) a large pickle jar full to the brim with pennies. I thought I was so rich and buried them in our backyard, but of course my brother Bernard dug them up and spent the money.

Radium Hill you were an amazing town, you opened your arms and welcomed people from all over the world…37 nations…the experience of living in your town reflects in the number of ex-residents that turn up for re-unions time and time again.

Adventures of a Child, Mike Phillips

As a ten-year old child arriving at Radium Hill in 1956, it seemed to be a wonderland of adventure. Even though I had grown up in the English countryside, I found the bush surrounding Radium Hill to be spectacular, with its creeks, saltbush plains and the Maldorkey Ranges a constant brooding presence on the horizon.

There were many adventures to be had however one in particular centred on the Rifle Range Dam. The dam was a popular place to visit and on one trip, my friend Michael Scullion and I decided to build a raft and set sail across the dam. We found a couple of large planks and nailed small cross planks across to provide a platform. A couple of rudimentary oars later we pushed off the bank and set sail across the dam.

We were having a wonderful time cruising around when suddenly, one of the main outrigger planks disengaged from the raft and speared off like a torpedo! The raft tilted and began to slide under the water. I couldn't swim at the time and as I slid off the raft and into the dark, freezing cold water I felt Michael Scullion's hand grasp my hair and pull me to the surface. He laid me across the remnant of the raft which just managed to keep me afloat while he swam to the shore. I lay very still for what seemed like an eternity until I felt the raft bump into the mud at the edge of the dam and I was able to scramble up the muddy bank. Then we dried ourselves off and walked home and never told our parents.

This was just another Radium Hill Adventure and now a distant memory, and Michael Scullion, if you ever read this, you saved my life and I am forever grateful.

Recollections of a School Teacher, Noreen O'Connell

I went up to Radium Hill as a new bride. My husband, Terry O'Connell, had been working in the Mine Office as a Communication's Clerk and living in the Single Man's Quarters.

After our marriage, we moved into a brand new Hawkesbury house in January 1954. I was 25 years old. Our house was wonderful!

We didn't have a car, so I rode my bike across the creek to the school each day. The school was brand new. It was small and so there were only two teachers. The Headmaster taught the senior classes and I had the junior children. The children were always well behaved, and happy to be at school. I don't remember there every being any problems with any of them!

Inside the classroom there was very little decoration. I could move the desks around it I needed to. I taught the basics – reading, arithmetic, and writing. The children would write on a little blackboard with white and coloured chalk. They also had workbooks. We didn't do cursive, only printing. The children liked marching, and we marched into school each morning. We sung songs such as 'When Jimmy Monkey...' and 'It's a lovely day today…'.

At lunchtime, many children went home. The rest sat down and ate their sandwiches together. There was not much fruit! There was not much in the playground – some swings, a see-saw and some stepping stones. The children would draw hopscotch in the ground or on the cement with white chalk.

In 1955 I was pregnant the first of two children born while we lived at Radium Hill, and so I had to retire from teaching. We left in 1959.

We spent a wonderful few years in Radium Hill, and often think fondly of the times we had and people we met.

Memories, Brian Tattersall

In 1957 Mum and Dad told us that we were heading to the country to a place called Radium Hill.

The 1939 Chevvy was loaded up with Ann, Geoff, myself and Skippy the dog and we headed up the dirt highway to our new home.

The next three years were fantastic. New friends at the school, Saturday matinee (Tarzan King of the Jungle), the swimming pool on those hot days and covered in mud when at the pool during a dust storm and occasionally swimming in Olary Creek water hole.

I remember the great nights at the drive-in theatre. In August 1959 we were watching the King and I with Mum heavily pregnant. She started labour but wanted to finish the film. Then there was a rush to the AIM hospital where our brother Ian was born (baby no 86) with the help of Sisters Larry Carter and Iris Aitkin.

Then there was the golf course and the BBQ's after golf. Our brother Geoff (about 2 at that time), always up for an extra snag, fell onto the hot plate to grab one! Rush to hospital, flight to Adelaide and several skin grafts later all good.

My years at Radium Hill gave me a great love of the bush and we have done many off road trips all over Australia and in particular the tracks that Len Beadell laid down.

I have returned to Radium Hill about 10 times over the years. Many of my friends were sick of me raving for 50 years about my time there so I took them there in 2014 and they were all blown away.

I hope that we can get the opportunity to return again.

Noreen and Terry back from honeymoon

Remembering Radium Hill

Glandore Reunion - October 2022

Glandore Reunion October 2022

Born at Radium Hill

L–R: Evan Lloyd, Kurt Kube, Miriam DeSouza (nee Puntillo), Tony Averay, Karin Pearce (nee Rainer), Tammy Morris (nee Rainer), Inga Grant (nee Praehoffer).

School at Radium Hill

Front R: Teacher Noreen O'Connell
& Radium Hill School Students.

Married at Radium Hill

L–R: June & Kevin Kakoschke, Sylvia & Barry Kakoschke.

Mine Office Staff at Radium Hill

L–R: Pam Barrett, Sylvia Kakoschke, June Kakoschke, Margaret Charlesworth.

Burnside Library, History Month, May 2022

June & Kevin Kakoshke.

Award to Kevin Kakoschke OAM (former President RHHA)

"Dedication in Preserving the Historical Memories & the Life and Times of the People of Radium Hill".