THE

RADIO ACTIVITY

NEWS BULLETIN

For Information of ex-Radium Hill Community and Families

Official Organ of the Radium Hill Historical Association Inc.

May 2024

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IN MEMORIUM

Kevin R Kakoschke
President RHHA for 30 years
Died 7th April, 2023
R.I.P

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HELLO FROM THE PRESIDENT JIMI KRECU

Greetings once more, everyone! It's hard to believe how swiftly another year has passed. Before delving into our updates, I'm delighted to extend a warm welcome to Jenny Tippett, our new Secretary/Treasurer. Jenny steps into this role following Evan Lloyd's departure due to other commitments.

On behalf of the Committee, I express heartfelt gratitude to Evan for his dedicated service and countless volunteered hours to the RHHA.

Since our last communication, a select few of us had the privilege of returning to Radium Hill in April '23, under stringent supervision. Subsequently, in October '23, another group convened for the clean-up efforts (as detailed in Brian & Geoff's Report).
I extend a sincere thank you to all who participated in both excursions, sacrificing precious time from their busy lives. Your unwavering support and dedication to the RHHA are deeply appreciated, especially considering that attendees financed these trips out of their own pockets.
Once again, a resounding thank you to all involved.

Also a special Thanks to Andy and Helen Treloar's hospitality at Tikalina Stn for allowing us to use all their facilities.

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.

Throughout the year, we've marked significant milestones, foremost among them being our return to Radium Hill to embark on the clean-up of the town site as requested from the property lessees. Brian and Geoff Tattersall eloquently chronicle this endeavor in their illuminating article within these pages. Many thanks for their tireless efforts, as we eagerly anticipate the fruition of our Endeavor's to secure permission for future visits to the site.

Following the proceedings of last year's Annual General Meeting, we reconfirmed the stalwart members of our committee, and welcomed Jennie Tippet into the role of Secretary/Treasurer, filling the void left by vacancy. Jennie's commendable stewardship is eloquently detailed in the Treasurer's Report.

Thanks to the diligent efforts of Jennie and Tammy, our presence on Facebook now stands firm, a testament to their dedication.

Acknowledgment is due to Jimi from the Committee for his outstanding contributions to this year's newsletter. This vital communication tool, disseminated far and wide, serves as a cherished means of connection within the Radium Hill community.

As anticipation builds for this year's reunion at Glandore, we eagerly anticipate the opportunity to reconnect with old friends and forge new memories. Yet, amidst our joy, we pause to honour the memory of those who have departed from our midst over the past year, including Edeltraude Drazil, Leith Singe, Eric Brackenreg, Lois Harvie, Niel Gobbett , and especially Kevin Kakoschke, whose indomitable spirit and leadership have left an indelible mark on our association. His legacy shall forever continue to be our inspiration for the future of the Radium Hill Historic Association.

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY JENNIE TIPPETT

As in my new role as Secretary/Treasurer I have been sorting and filing correspondence and 1000's of photos put together over the past 30years or so.
I am in awe of the dedication and commitment of Kevin, June and the long-standing committee have put into the preservation of the Radium Hill Historical Association.
This is an extract from Pam Barrett (Morrison), one of the original committee members:
"Basically a few of us got together sometime in 1990 and decided we would do all we could to organize a Radium Hill reunion as so many were keen to have one. ..Kev was President, Jim McDermid Secretary and Marg, his wife was Treasurer. We had NO money! Immediately we set about having quiz nights, garage sales etc in our homes and regular meetings at June and Kevs.
The end result was an incredible successful reunion over Easter, 1991-
both at Radium Hill and finishing at Glandore in Adelaide - 400 ex-residents
In all attended. The tears and the joy I will never forget"

WITHOUT THEM ALL, RADIUM HILL HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION AND THE RE-UNIONS WOULD NOT EXIST

OBITUARIES

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

Kevin Kakoschke
Edeltraude Drazil
Leith Singe
Eric Brackenreg
Lois Harvie
Niel Gobbett …
''Long time worker for the RHHA''

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

STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR ACCESS TO RADIUM HILL TOWNSHIP

By Brian and Geoff Tattersall

Since early 2019, negotiations on behalf of the Association around access to Radium Hill township and cemetery by former residents have been occurring with the multiple government agencies with responsibilities in pastoral leases, cemeteries, the mine and heritage. Following Covid, the state election, changes of Ministers, departments and staff, we received Ministerial approval on 7 February 2023 for a supervised visit to the township.

The trip was arranged for 18,19,20 April 2023 and Jimi and Jamie Krecu, Brian and Geoff Tattersall and Mike Phillips met with the departmental representative, John (Max) Maconochi for a few beers at the Olary pub. We were allowed one day in Radium Hill so camped near Olary Creek and headed in the next day. The purpose of the trip was to prepare an inventory of items still around the township and retrieve various items requested by former residents. We were able to see that the plaques at the site are still visible and generally in good condition and the area around the old school is messy with many items that are no longer functional. The cemetery has many weeds and needs a tidy up but the fundamentals remain in place.

The visit was very worthwhile and provided useful guidance to the Committee on next steps. Max was very professional and impartial and provided useful advice to us and to the lessees. We were fortunate to separately meet both lessees from which to deuce some insight into the reasons behind their stances go not allowing access to the township.

Mark Francis (Maldorky) was concerned about the caravans and other material left on site as they are visible on Google Maps and can be mistaken for a campground, therefore attracting unwanted visitors. He asked for them to be removed along with the toilet block and for the area to be tidied up. We could leave the BBQ shed and storage room and the two small long drop toilets. These were considered very reasonable requests and we were then able to request a further visit to carry out the work.

The second supervised visit was arranged for 31 October to 3 November 2023.

Jimi and Jamie Krecu, Brian Tattersall, Mike Phillips, Peter Harrat, Wolf Fellager, Kurt Kube and Ron and Maria Tame met with Max Maconochi and Sue Avey (DEW Heritage) at the Olary pub only to find out it was closed as it was changing hands. But pleased to say it is now open again! We moved on to Tikalina and accepted Andy and Helen Treloar's kind invitation to camp in the shearing quarters.

The fun started the next day! We emptied the vans, dismantled annexes etc and then were amazed that all the tyres inflated - except for one!!! We checked all the spare wheels around, but none fitted. We talked about doing a Len Beadell and stuffing the tyre with grass etc., but Jimi worked some magic on the broken valve with wire and pliers and we pumped it up. Then we quickly hooked up and headed out to Tikalina assuming that it would go down and would have to drag the van out on its rims. The track was not in good nick and there were many wash outs so we had to go bush and make our own tracks. We still don't know how the tyres stayed up (Jimi will say it was his magic, but it could have been sheer ars%*???). The other three vans followed soon after and all made it to Tikalina despite their rough ride. Andy will re-purpose the chassis for use around the station.

Toilet facilities and other structures erected by former residents were dismantled with the exception of the 2 "long drops" and BBQ shed and

storage for use by the station as agreed with Mark. Also Mark agreed that items in storage in the former Catholic Church could remain there.
Other items such as scrap steel and corrugated iron were placed in piles as requested and agreed with Mark for his use and/or disposal.

The cemetery requires some maintenance which was also noted by Mark but we only had time to spray the weeds.

We owe a great deal of thanks to Max for his ability to understand the desires of all parties and liaise between them all. Also thanks to Andy and Helen for the accommodation and Mark for sharing his concerns and allowing us to act on them.

We have heard rumours of how to sneak into the old township. Please do not try this. If someone is caught there it will be a disaster and undo all the work we have done trying to gain understanding of what are the issues for the lessees and our attempts to develop goodwill between the parties.

As a final comment, all contacts/negotiations with the lessees must go through DEW (preferably through the association) rather than direct contact with the lessees and we ask that all accept this to be the case until further notice.

REMEMBERING RADIUM HILL REUNION

The long-awaited Remembering Radium Hill will be held this year on Sunday, 20th October 2024, start up time 1pm at:
Glandore Community Centre, Naldera Street, Glandore.
Come along and help celebrate 70 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.

70 YEARS AGO

It was 70 years ago, on the 12th November 1954 that the Radium Hill uranium mine was officially opened by his Excellency, the Governor General of Australia, Field Marshall Sir William Slim.

MEMORIES BY MEMBERS

THE HEAT and BABIES by June Kakoschke:

After spending 3 weeks in Broken Hill Hospital after the birth of our twin girls, we returned home to temperatures around 100 F or 37 C most days.
We lived in asbestos houses which were extremely hot with no air conditioning and so we kept the girls cool by hanging wet towels around their cot. After some time Kevin was given a fan from the Dept. Mines which helped a lot.

THE BUNNIES
By June Kakoschke

Our home in RH was back-to-back with my parents-in-law (not a great idea) but it had its conveniences. Pop Kakoschke was a wood merchant, bottle merchant and also a rabbiter. They also had 2 dogs…Mick who I wasn't fond of and Spot who I was fond of. I noticed that often when I was over at their house I would become quite choked up and itchy. Could it be the rabbits that I was allergic to? But I never touched the rabbits really. I soon worked it out, Spot the dog liked to sit on the warm rabbits while they were waiting to be 'dealt with 'and occasionally I would make a fuss over Spot, patting and picking him up etc., etc. Problem solved! Poor Spot, no more cuddles. To this day I am allergic to rabbits and carry antihistamines whenever I go into the country

MY MOTHER CONNIE
By Barbara Burgess

My Mother, Connie Savage worked as an AIM (Australian Inland Mission) nurse at Radium Hill in the late 50's. My father, Janos (John) Buza worked as a miner at Radium Hill at the same time. He had escaped Hungary in the 1950's. They were engaged at Christmas 1957 and married in Sydney on the 28th November. They bought the Andamooka shop and my father became an opal miner and dealer. My mother unofficially nursed anyone that needed help including family pets.
We moved to Adelaide in 1968 and then in 1970 my parents tragically died in a light plane crash. My brother Peter and I moved to Queensland where my mother's family raised us both.

ANOTHER RADIUM HILL ADVENTURE
By Mike Phillips

When I was about thirteen year's old, a group of my friends built a 'fort 'in the hills north west of the cemetery. It consisted of a circular low wall of rocks, with a timber conical roof. We thatched the inside of the roof with dried grass to make it seem snug and weather tight.

My friend Klaus Koetter admired our work and our site so much that he asked if his gang could build their fort next to ours. We said it would be fine and so they built an Indian style tepee, but instead of buffalo hide, they used the old building

paper, which was a heavy brown paper containing a layer of tar. Our little encampment provided many hours of pleasure, sitting inside and telling tall stories as young people do.

One day we decided to roast some potatoes. We set a fire in the middle of our hut and one of the boys (I can't remember who but should remain nameless anyway) had one of the old cigar tubes filled with kerosene, which he poured on to the just lit kindling. There followed an almighty burst of flames and we looked up to see our grass ceiling blazing away. We scrambled out of our time entrance way in panic and luckily were all able to escape unharmed.

About half of our group immediately ran for home (also unnamed) while the remainder stayed to fight the fire. As we had no experience in these things, we stared to grab burning timbers and throw them around the site.
Unfortunately, one of these set fire to Klaus's tepee, and we watched in horror as the tar paper ignited and sent clouds of dense black smoke billowing skywards. Up to that point, we were hoping that we could put the fire out and our parents would be none the wiser, but the amount of smoke immediately alerted the town. I seem to remember that a siren sounded but it could have been my imagination, but as I looked towards the town I saw a stream of people resembling an advancing army of ants surging up the cemetery road towards us.

The first adults arrived and were pretty angry but set about controlling the fire and eventually it was extinguished leaving us to all find our way home. Fearing the consequences of our adventure, my brother Jon and a couple of our friends and I were so scared we decided to run away from home. We decided to head for Cutana to catch a train and 'who knows what 'after that!
(Remember we were only about thirteen). It became dark and cold and I think we got as far as Castle Rock before we became even more scared and turned back toward the town and home.

We walked through the town, and as we passed our friends 'houses, we could hear from within lots of loud voices and some crying as various degrees of punishment were administered by no doubt very relieved parents.

This was one of the many adventures enjoyed by my brother and I which became part of the wonderful experience of growing up at Radium Hill.

GHOSTS TOWNS SA.

For those who attended our last reunion you may remember the roving **ABC** cameraman and reporter who were doing a documentary on Ghost Towns of S.A. Well, it has been aired and well received…There will be a Link on Our ...' **WE ARE RADIUM HILL** …Facebook site ….....Highly recommended viewing ……

DID YOU KNOW

- 117 babies were born at the Australian Inland Mission (AIM) hospital from 1953 to 1961.
- 81 street, house and occupants name plates were installed around the township as well as 18 historic photographic plaques around former business sites.
- 1991 saw the dedication of the Radium Hill Pioneer Cemetery.
- 1991, 400 ex residents and families attended the 1st reunion at Radium Hill and Glandore, Adelaide.
- Sir Douglas Mawson proposed the name Radium Hill in 1906.
- 1st train into Radium Hill in October 1953 was called the Atomic Comet.
- The Radium Hill Catholic School was opened with 76 students.
- In Sept 1951 Micheal Middleton was the first baby to be christened in Radium Hill . The ceremony took place at house No 3 Located near the railway station.
- Kerry Ford was the first baby to be christened in the NEW United Church, and Vicky Treloar was the last.
- The final Church service at the United Church was held on Sunday 10th Dec 1961
- 4th March 1952 Fresh water from Umberumberka flowed into the 2-million-gallon concrete tank on hill
- 8th Oct 1953. Electricity from Nth West Bend near Morgan hummed through the power lines. The power line to Radium Hill was estimated to have cost 750,000 Pounds

GENERAL

AGM 2024
The annual General Meeting for the Radium Hill Association.
will be held in September 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 Jimi Krecu, President of RHHA.

MUSEUM UPDATE.

Remember that the Radium Hill Museum has moved to the Steam town Heritage Centre in Peterborough.

Discussions were circulating about relocating the Radium Hill Museum to the YMCA in Peterborough. However, this proposal has been paused due to the remarkable surge in traffic, which was notably benefiting the Peterborough Steam Train Museum, alongside inadequate security measures at the YMCA.

WE WERE RADIUM HILL
Three books have been generously given for fundraising. They're in perfect condition, signed by both the authors and the previous RHHA committee. There's already been significant interest, with offers exceeding $150. If you're interested in purchasing one, please contact me, Jennie Tippett, stating your offered price. One book will be auctioned at the reunion. Due to the revived interest in these books, further donations would be highly appreciated.

DIGITAL NEWS BULLETIN
Do you have an email address? Last year, in 2023, the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter (nearly 500 copies) amounted to over $1,200. We can save significantly if we send the newsletter via email whenever feasible. Simply send your email address to

tippett.jennie@gmail.com

For those who prefer postal delivery or do not have an email address, please ensure your mailing address is up to date. If there has been any change in the past two years or so, kindly provide your updated mailing address to

tippett.jennie@gmail.com

WE ARE RADIUM HILL FACEBOOK SITE
A huge thank you goes out to the skilled Tammy Morris (Rainer) for creating this website. Launched in November, it has already received a fantastic response, with 54 members and counting. The stories and photographs shared here are truly captivating.

This is a closed site exclusively for individuals who have lived, worked, or had family ties to Radium Hill. If you fit this criteria and would like to join, simply visit the ……..We Are Radium Hill Facebook site and apply for membership. Just answer a few questions and provide your email address.

RADIUM HILL REUNION 2024
Remembering Radium Hill
Sunday, 20th October 2024
Start time 1pm
Glandore Community Centre
Naldera Street, Glandore.

Please Mark this date in your calendar!

1st Trip back to Radium Hill April 23……. The Motley Crew …….from Left to Right
Jamie & Jimi Krecu **Mike Phillips** **Geoff & Brian Tattersall**

2nd Trip back to Radium Hill Nov 23…….The Clean Up Crew ……from Left to Right
Mike Phillips, Kurt Kube , Brian Tattersall , Wolf Fellager , Jamie Krecu , Max Maconochi , Jimi Krecu , Peter Harrat , Ron Tame, …Sue from DEW was taking the photo and Maria Tame was already back at camp ……..

After the clean up …All caravans gone all Left Neat and Tidy WHAT AN EFFORT ……..Thanks to all involved

Amazing what a bit of wire can do …Kept the tyre up all the way to Tickalina ….And I've been told that it is still up …

Trying to tidy up a bit around the graves at the cemetery, The weeds and prickles were unbelievable, Unfortunately 4 years of neglect will do this .

Last of the caravans out of Radium Hill ……Who said we couldn't do it amazing what duct tape ,spit , bit of wire, and determination will do

After a hard day's work in the heat, relaxing outside the shearer's quarters at Tikalina, cooling down with some amber fluid ……..

Last night at Tikalina siting around the campfire after a hell of a great effort by all the volunteer's in cleaning up at Radium Hill ….Special thanks to Andy and Helen for all their hospitality in allowing us to use their facilities …..