

...THE... ...NEWS BULLETIN....

For information of ex-Radium Hill Community and families

Official Organ of the Radium Hill Historical Association Inc.

February 2020

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

The next Radio Activity News Bulletin will be published in February 2021

Hello there,

It's been goodbye to the teens and hello to the twenties.

Many folk have been in touch this past year from around the world, with news, advice, and best wishes. Thanks to all of you.

It has been a mixed year, comprising the good and the not so good. One of the highlights was the official opening of the Radium Hill Heritage Museum in its new home at Peterborough. More on this event later.

The Reunion in Adelaide at the Glandore Community Centre was also a great event enjoyed by all who attended.

Entry to our old town of Radium Hill via the "old track" is still restricted. Hopefully this state of affairs will change in the not too distant future.

The past support which we have received from our many supporters has been greatly appreciated.

From your Committee, pleasant reading, keep in touch via letter, phone call, e mail, or guest book comment on our web site.

Best wishes to you and yours,

Kevin Kakoschke
Feb. 2020.

BIRTHDAYS

What a year it was at the A.I.M. Hospital. In February, four babies were born. The nursing Sisters Dulcie Gibson and Connie Savage, must have been nearly run off their feet nursing them and their mothers.

Cherie Tayler was the first born followed by Karmin Reiter, Margaret Dodic, John Hillier, Eoin Perry, Graham Ware, Peter Matthias, Stephan Bertocchi, Heather Lawrie, Mervyn Smith, Adrian Crozier, Jennifer Blake, Dean Fettke, Wendy Rainer, Peter Saunders, Bill Constancias.

The birthday cakes would have been loaded with 60 candles this past year and the grandkids would have had a wow of a time blowing them all out. Some of our friends have reached the ripe old age of 90 years or more including;

Manning George
Lewig Val
Hill Bev
Ballenger Jack
Ballenger Dawn
Shulte, Margaret
O'Connell, Noreen

Happy birthday to you all.

(It seems to be the case, that the older you get, your joints seem to give up the ghost. Never mind, artificial hip and knee joints can be successfully implanted nowadays).

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Marleston, South Australia



"leave nothing but footprints, take nothing but photographs"



OBITUARIES

Bedin, Rolando 90 Adelaide SA
Cicirko John Saxilby England
Fletcher, Peter Adelaide SA
Ford, Zelda Riverton SA
Laffin, Patricia Berri SA
Laffin, Ted Berri SA
Valenti, Klaus
Zunic, Angelko
Dodds, Ray Adelaide SA

ACCESS TO RADIUM HILL UPDATE

The Radium Hill Historical Association has commenced discussion regarding access issues to the former Radium Hill townsite and Cemetery with government agencies including the Department of Energy and Mining and Primary Industries and Regions SA. As a result, the Association is working towards better understanding the issues of all stakeholders, including pastoral leaseholders, so they can be addressed.

The Association only supports access based upon agreement for former residents and associated family members. The Radium Hill Historical Association looks forward to further discussions and positive developments with government agencies including pastoral leaseholders.

Many thanks to Evan Lloyd, Brian and Geoff Tattersall for their participation.

CORRESPONDENCE

We have received letters and emails from all over the world written by ex-Radium Hill residents and family members. Ian Boening, who had worked in Radium Hill wrote from Western Australia the following message.

"I admire the fortitude of all participating members in celebrating every Easter and read with interest the fantastic shows that you have put on, also celebrating births and deaths over the years. It seems a pity that Easter 2019 will have to change its format and hopefully many will be able to celebrate the reunion in Adelaide."

Received a letter from Art Burrows last March. He had received some "Newsletters" from Nancy Fletcher dating from 2010 till 2018. He wrote,

"I've thoroughly enjoyed reading them and found repeatedly names kept popping up that I had long forgotten. But that's not the reason for writing. Getting them altogether like this emphasises the size and I think, the importance, of what you and June have done over the years. I expect that many others have already expressed their gratitude, but I'd also like to add my appreciation of your efforts"

Nice comments Art.

The following email was from Cornelia Prenzlou, Harry Gohns daughter, Germany.

"I presume that you have inaugurated the new RADIUM HILL museum in these days... It is such a pity, that the former meeting in Radium Hill does not exist anymore. I am all the more pleased that we could be there in 1915. Harry, my dad, is in good health! I hope you are well too. Greetings to you all"

Thanks Connie.

RADIUM HILL VISITS

Ian husband and I visited Radium Hill in January, 2019.

Boy, was it hot! Spraying the Cemetery trees to kill the bugs and then watering the trees with precious water were the main tasks carried out. Up at the Catholic Church ruins, there they were, three dead "roos", just bones, hair and dried skin. There were two more at the camp. Behind a table in the BBQ shed, there it was, a bony half dead "roo" staring up at us.



There it was, the bony half dead "roo".

We placed a dish of water alongside of it, but it didn't drink, it was too far gone. Ian carried it around to a shady spot in the "beer garden". However, the poor thing was too far gone, and later that afternoon it would hop no more as it lay stretched out on the ground, "dead as a doe doe".

When we went to RH at Easter, to spay and water the trees, what a sight at the camp area, four dead "roos". Up at the Catholic Church, another eight piles of bones, skin and hair. The poor things had died from lack of water and food.



Dead "roos", bones, skins and hair on the Catholic Church ruins floor.

The effects of the drought were very plain to see everywhere. Even some original trees in the Townsite area had also died through lack of water.

Jenny Treloar of Wia Wera station just west of Radium Hill said that they had only less than 20mm. of rain in whole of 2019, and the dust was terrible. Trying to keep the house free of dust was a never ending task. You'd brush it from here and it would settle there, dust that is.

Reminds me of when I first went to Radium Hill straight from School at Burra, in March, 1953. My new home was a two-man tent. Every afternoon there would be a dust storm covering everything inside the tent with dust. I would sweep the thick dust off the floor between the beds and then carefully fold the top blanket up and take it outside before shaking and belting the dust out of it. If that wasn't bad enough, the canvas of the tent would be flapping in the

wind half the night making sleep almost impossible.

Never under any circumstances, take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night.

In the 2019 Newsletter, I wrote about some big black beetles up at the Cemetery that I had sprayed with insecticide to "knock them off". Well I was wrong. They weren't beetles, they were "giant burrowing cockroaches" which grow up to 80 mms in length. I managed to find a big dead one on a recent visit.



The big black "Giant Burrowing Cockroach" 65mm long.

MUSEUM OPENING IN PETERBOROUGH EASTER 2019

In the week leading up to Easter, visitors were treated to many various events put on by the great people of Peterborough. Guided tours of the former Rail Centre run continuously between 9am to 3.30 pm daily.



Kevin welcoming the crowd with the steam engine in the background

A pamphlet, titled, "30 Things To See And Do" during your stay in Peterborough, can be obtained from the Visitor Information

Centre. The pamphlet lists street stalls, various Museum displays and of course the spectacular "Sound and Light" show at the Steamtown Heritage Rail Centre. I personally found "Magnetic Hill" intriguing where your motor vehicle seemingly rolls up the hill with your engine shut off? "Fair dinkum".

Another sight which I found interesting was the massive River Red Gum growing by the side of the Ororoo road in the district, claimed to be the biggest in Australia, (about 30ft in circumference).



A side view of the crowd "Standing room only"

The Radium Hill Heritage Museum located in a building at the rear of the Steamtown Heritage Rail Centre, Peterborough, was officially opened by the Mayor of Peterborough, Ruth Whittle, OAM, on Sunday, 21st, April 2019. What an event. Over 160 people attended on Easter Sunday for this historic event.



Pam Barratt presenting a thankyou gift to the Peterborough Mayor.

They came from near and far, even from Cairns in Queensland. I

welcomed the gathering and then the introduced the Mayor who spoke glowingly of the museum. This unique Museum records for posterity via memorabilia and artefacts, the birth, life, death and legacies of Radium Hill, Australia's first uranium mine and supporting town.



Peterborough Mayor, Ruth Whittle, OAM with Kevin Kakoschke at the Museum opening ceremony.

The official opening was followed by the crowd streaming through the Museum to see the various exhibits and memorabilia that was on display. After viewing the Museum, the crowd then adjourned to the room where afternoon tea room was being served. Boy, what stories were told.

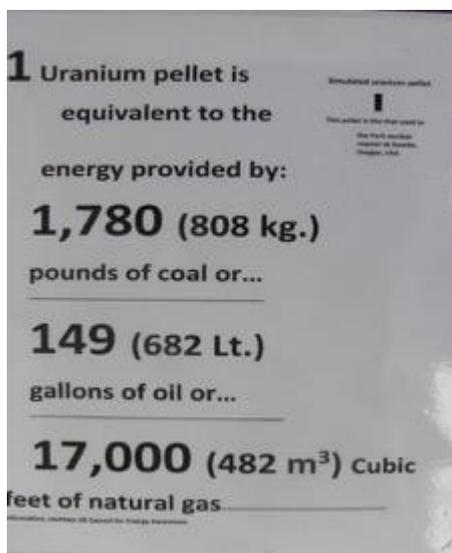
It was cool at night, so much so, that the bonfire enclosure in the caravan park would be jammed packed with people trying to keep warm by the blazing logs on the fire whilst enjoying each other's company



Trying to keep warm around the bonfire

I recently spoke to Shirley Dearlove at the "Steamtown Heritage Rail Centre" and she stated that over the two months during the height of the tourism season many visitors had viewed the Museum displays.

She also mentioned that the display featuring a mock-up of a uranium pellet, measuring 4mm. in diameter x 15mm long, as used in the York nuclear reactor in Seattle, USA, created quite a bit of interest, especially amongst the younger folk. It's amazing, the amount of energy which such a small object can release.



Uranium Pellet energy equivalents. Look to the top right hand corner to see the actual pellet size.

We were approached by the Embroiders' Guild of South Australia Museum, who had heard about the Radium Hill ladies C.W.A. signature supper cloth on display in our Museum. Dozens of ladies including Enid Pengilly and

Dora Wilkin, had signed and embroidered their signatures onto this cloth. It is apparently unique as only 150 such cloths exist in the whole of Australia.



C.W.A.Ladies Signed Supper Cloth.

GETTING READY FOR THE GLANDORE REUNION

The amount of work required for this reunion was incredible. Our Committee held a get together to sort through old photos which may be suitable for display purposes.



What a mess in June's lounge! June and Lynda sorting and placing photos on the display panels.

It was OK sorting them into the various categories, but who were the people in the various photos which we thought may be displayed? That's where the memory box was put to the test. After many hundreds of hours, we finally got there, naming the

people or objects in the photos. Whew!

GLANDORE REUNION

The following letter was written by Lara Sisson who helped at the Reunion.

“The 2019 Radium Hill reunion held at Glandore Community Centre was held by a community of enthusiastic members and their friends. People went to great lengths to attend the event, enjoying the company, speeches and of course, the food.



Life at Radium Hill display 1

My mother and I assisted with the administration desk, guiding guests to their name tags and the visitors' book. Stickers were provided for those who were born in Broken Hill and Radium Hill, guests displayed these on their name tags helping others know who's who. I saw some friendly familiar faces and new ones too.



Life at Radium Hill display 2

This gathering operated so smoothly thanks to the help of the Radium Hill Committee and their families, helping set up and tear down tables and chairs and also assisting with the assembling of photos on twelve panels displaying life at Radium Hill. Many guests brought delicious finger food for everyone to share, of course, it was all gone by the end of the day. Tea and coffee and water were also served along with the afternoon tea.



The crowd enjoying afternoon tea and a catchup with old friends

We saw a couple strangers stumble into our event, including a man who waltzed through the entrance, took some food and left. On top of that, he gave no one his name, very odd. June and Kevin both said a few words on behalf of the whole association and guests viewed a short film on the History of Radium Hill.

As the granddaughter of both Kevin and June, I took pride in them and this famous little town, as I always have. After not being allowed to visit the Radium Hill campsite, it was lovely to see everyone and their families coming together again regardless of where we are, to represent the town and its intriguing history.”

Lara Sisson 16 yrs.



A welcoming smile from Lara Sisson and her mother Lynda at the sign on desk greeted visitors.

A closed mouth gathers no foot.

Everyone was enjoying the afternoon tea put on for everyone to share by all the Radium Hill folk. Even the locals joined in or so we thought. Turned out, what some thought was the local homeless person taking advantage of the Radium Hill generosity and welcoming hospitality, was actually a local resident. Debbie Kakoschke pointed out the ‘homeless’ man at the table. Low and behold this so-called homeless man was actually one of Lynda Sisson’s (nee Kakoschke) previous mental health clients who had seized the opportunity to enjoy some of the fine fare. Not once, but twice, he returned to fill his plate with culinary delights from the table.

Lynda Sisson



The crowded display area

Ian Husband with help from Rod Lawrence, set-up the public address system and video player. The Radium Hill video “The Way We Were” was played. In the scene showing the swimming pool, Marion Hanson (nee Valenti), shed

a tear as she saw herself as a very young girl in the swimming pool.



Michael Phillips hovering over the afternoon tea table "goodies".

We received many emails regarding the Glandore Reunion, from those who were unable to attend due to previous commitments and from those folk who were able to attend. One email from Chris Jones, (son of Ray who worked in Radium Hill) was as follows;

*"Hi Kevin and June.
Thanks for the reunion three weeks ago. I thoroughly enjoyed it; great seeing all the photos; loved seeing dad in the footy photo. I said to dad you passed on your wishes to him; he says hi back..."*

I know dad and mum went back there in the 1990s to a reunion that you had. A student of mine in year 7 in the 1990s came in one day and said were you and your parents at Radium Hill? His parents or grandparents knew my parents.

Once again, thanks for the day three weeks ago. You have my address I believe. I would love to come to any other functions you have. I sent copies of the photos to my other brothers and my nieces and nephew.

*Thanks Christopher Jones
Son of Ray and Patricia Jones".*

TREVOR MORRISON'S ASHES INTERMENT AT RADIUM HILL

The ashes of Trevor Morrison were finally laid to rest in the Radium Hill Pioneers Cemetery. Trevor's sister, Pam Barratt, summed up the interment of Trevor's ashes with the following details;

"On Sunday, 1st December, 3 vehicles were allowed to travel through the gates of Tikalina Station and then further to the Radium Hill Pioneer Cemetery to inter Trevor Morrison's ashes as it was his dearest wish to be laid to rest in the place which over the years he had done many, many hours of work, and which he dearly loved.

His wife Sandra, who was relentless in her efforts to have permission given to have Trev's wishes fulfilled, was there together with sons, Ashley and Bradley and Kim and Grandchildren, Sandra's sister Margaret, Trev's sister Pam, and Garry O'Connor, husband of Trev's sister Sue, and his dear friends Kerry and Pauline Pinch.

Trev's ashes were interred and his plaque set in place to the stains of Slim Dusty, who was Trev's hero and had over the years made it very clear that Slim had to be part of his burial".



The plaque and flowers marking Trev's final resting place.

MEMORY JOGGERS

Next year 2021 marks the 60th anniversary of the Radium Hill Mine Closure.

Some have suggested another reunion at Glandore Community Centre October 2021 to mark the occasion. Stay tuned!

Please contact June, our secretary if you

- **change your address**
- **change phone number**
- **know any ex-Radium Hill resident who has passed away**
- **or has celebrated their 90th birthday.**

Have your say

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

You may like to write an item that may be suitable for inclusion in the next newsletter Feb., 2021. Email kevjune@bigpond.com

If you have any artefacts that may be suitable for displaying in the Museum please let us know, call or email (see front page for full contact details).



The Radium Hill Committee 2019
(L to R) Lynda Sisson, June Kakoschke, Kevin Kakoschke, Evan Lloyd, Margot Binkowski, Phill Huddy, Barry Kakoschke, Sylvia Kakoschke, Lois Harvie, Rodney Lawrence, Pam Barratt, Sandra Dumont, front Jim Krecu and Wolfgang Felleger.
(absent Kieran McCosker)