

# ...THE... RADIO ACTIVITY ...NEWS BULLETIN....

For information of ex-Radium Hill Community and families

Official Organ of the Radium Hill Historical Association Inc.

February 2019

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This Newsletter 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 2020

**Hello there,**

Well, another year has come and gone, and what a year it's been. Many ex-Radium Hill people have been in touch with news about old friends and relatives. Great.

Easter 2018 was a terrific get together. The cabaret, lighting display and services at the cemetery were just great, thanks to all who participated. Unfortunately the weather was a bit too warm.

But there were some downsides. **The museum had to be re-located. There will be no Easter Re-union at Radium Hill in 2019, because entry is restricted to the Radium Hill site** for such purpose by the station lease-holder.

There are now restrictions concerning entry into the Radium Hill site. More on these two items later.

The past support which we have received from our many supporters has been greatly appreciated. It has enabled us to carry on preserving the history and heritage of the place that we once called home, Radium Hill.

Easter 2019 will be different to what we have been used to.

The Radium Heritage Museum will be officially opened at its new home in **Peterborough on Easter Sunday, 21st of April, 2019.** Fortunately, we will be having a **Reunion in Adelaide in October** as we have had in the past.

Pleasant reading, keep in touch via letter, phone call, e mail or guest book on our web site.  
Best wishes to you and yours.

Kevin Kakoschke.  
February, 2019.

## BIRTHDAYS

Births, births, and still more births. Yes, 19 more babies were delivered at the AIM Hospital during 1959. The nursing Sisters were Dulcie Gibson, Connie Savage and then Larry Carter and Iris Aitkin. Julie Dewar was the first born that year followed by Brendon Saunders, Alexander Ford, Silvana Landri, William Davis, Tamara Rainer, Gregory Burrows, Ronald Felleger, Paula Sciarrotta, Rosalind Gobbett, Sharon Wickham, Margaret Bornholm, Anthony Averay, Ian Tattersall, Ingabourg Praehoffer, Claudio Parisi, David Thomas, Maria Schulte, and Diane Turner who was the 91st baby to be born in the Hospital.

60 candles on the birthday cake now.

Some of our friends have recently reached the ripe age of 90 years or more, including George Bero and Des Rankine 93, Peter Doyle, Lloyd Chambers, Jim Lawrie, Florence Mansfield, Barbara Davis. **Happy birthday to you all.**



“leave nothing but footprints, take nothing but photographs”



## OBITUARIES

Andrews, "Bob" Robert  
Maryborough Vic.  
Batchelor, John Andergrove Qld.  
Campbell, Clive Burra SA  
Doyle, Peter Keyeton Vic.  
Fahy, Brendon Sydney NSW  
Kitch, Walter Adelaide SA  
Mc Faddern, Kathleen Sydney  
NSW Morrison, Trevor Salisbury  
SA Neumann, Rainer Adelaide  
SA Purich, (Wielozynski)  
Felomena Midura Vic.  
Robinson, (O'Reilly) Colleen  
Brisbane QLD  
Simic, Kresco Cockburn SA  
Smith, Kay Adelaide SA  
Tattersall, Mary Adelaide SA

## CEMETERY

Our cemetery must be one of the most cared for cemeteries around. Big black beetles 1 1/4" long, have caused problems in the past by chewing off the tree leaves and damn near killing the trees. At last we seem to have them licked. Using a spray containing "Confidor" and "Malithion" we have knocked them off. Great!



Twenty dead big black beetles at the base of a tree after spraying the mixture on and around each tree.

But beetles aren't our only problem, goats and kangaroos try to get through or over the fence too. White plastic tubing about 5" long slipped onto the top wire of the cemetery fence and about 20 feet apart, stops horses and now kangaroos jumping fences.

Goats can't get through the lamb mesh netting surrounding the cemetery even though they try.



Ian Husband, Rod Lawrence and Barry Kakoschke fixing the anti-roo plastic tubing onto the top wire of the cemetery fence. You beauty, it works.

When Ian Husband and I were up to RH at the end of Jan. 2018, to spray and water the trees and do other odd jobs, the weather was extreme. We also carted loads of fine gravel to fix up the Cemetery entrance and did a bit of weeding and track maintenance. Mark Francis reported that on one day the temp. was 47°C. Despite the heat, we still averaged 10 1/2 hrs. work each day and only lost a couple of kgs in weight. Camp cooking and drinking plenty of electrolytes is the secret, plus of course early to bed. We never had our evening meal before nine o'clock each night because of the flies. If we started cooking before the sun went down we were liable to get extra "meat" in with what we were cooking and besides, the flies are quite bothersome buzzing around when trying to eat food without eating them. YUCK!

**A boiled egg is hard to beat.**

## EASTER 2018

What a sight which confronted us when we arrived at the camp site on Wed. 28 Mar. There it was in front of the BBQ and behind a turned-up table, another dead roo.

It had been dead for about a month in those hot and torrid conditions and its skeleton was covered with its dried hairless, parchment like skin. Rodney loaded it up into the "wheelbarrow hearse" and took it over the hill. "Good on yer" Rod.



The roo corpse ready for the "hearse".

We then had to clean up the roo hair, rake the gravel clean and spray deodorant around to get rid of the smell. Preparing for the Easter crowd meant watering the trees, filling the camp water tanks, setting up the stage and lighting, bringing chairs and tables from the "Church" store rooms and setting them up, weeding the Cemetery, placing flowers at each Cemetery grave, cleaning the Museum, cleaning and placing toilet rolls in all the toilets and other incidental tasks.

## SATURDAY

After the morning heritage tour, it was up to the Cemetery for the 12 o'clock Anzac commemoration service and the interment of Gerald "Gerry" Valenti's ashes.

The Cemetery looked a picture. Over twenty volunteers had completely removed all weeds and had placed a nice red rose at the foot of each grave/plaque.

Ron Tame dressed in his Army uniform conducted The Anzac Commemoration service. He spoke of the known 367 men and women of Radium Hill who had

served and of Phillip Davey who was awarded the Victoria Cross for his act of outstanding bravery at Merris, France, on the 28th June, 1918, 100 years ago. Phillip worked at Radium Hill from 1951 until 1953 when ill health from being gassed in WW1 forced him to Adelaide and the Repat Hospital where he later passed away.

As “the Last Post” was being played by Danny Fleming on his harmonica, Rod Lawrence lowered the flag, followed by a minute’s silence.

*The silence was surreal in that setting.*

The stirring notes of “Reveille”, also played by Danny on the harmonica saw the flag being raised as the ceremony was concluded.

### THE BURIAL

The group then moved to the site where Gerald Valenti’s ashes were to be interred.

It was the families wish that “Gerry’s” ashes be buried next to his mothers and fathers in the Radium Hill Pioneer Cemetery. Gerry’s sister, Margot Binkowski delivered the eulogy for Gerry and then his nephew, Wolf Fellegger placed his ashes beneath the headstone next to his parent’s grave.

His plaque reads, .....  
“Reunited with his Mum and Dad”

### THE HANGING

On Saturday afternoon we were witness to an extraordinary event, **a hanging.**

### O.M.G.

It happened right before our very eyes under the artificial tree (a sarlon covered rotary clothes line).

Margot Binkowski hanged herself.

It wasn’t to end her life but to improve it by lessening the pain which she experiences through the degeneration of her neck vertebrae and discs.

She placed a special harness around her neck and jaw and slowly hoisted herself up until most of her weight was taken up by the harness around her neck. There she stayed for ten minutes. I tried it out and it works, neck pain relief without taking pain killing tablets.



Margot hanging herself to relieve her neck pain.

A poem from Mary Gillard in Tasmania, sums up this novel treatment.

*I have a new physician, he's Dr.  
Wait'n'see,  
His sister, Mother Nature,  
whispers softly: "Let it be".  
Their treatment's always simple,  
directed straight at me  
And medication's easy – and  
what's more ... "IT'S FREE".  
Very fitting, thanks Mary.*

**Life always offers you a second chance. It's called tomorrow.**

### ROCKET LAUNCH

As twilight descended we gathered to witness an unbelievable spectacle, the launching of a 2stage rocket that would blast hundreds of feet up into the gathering night sky. It was designed to eject a black parachute when it ran out of fuel so that it would slowly drift back to earth.



The rocket blasting off

Kieran flicked the switch and before you could blink, it was whoosh, gone, up into the heavens above. As we gazed up into the **star studded sky**, there appeared two black dots as the parachutes opened and the rocket slowly drifted back to earth a few hundred yards away.

It was better than witnessing a rocket launch at Cape Canaveral. Thank you Kieran.

By the way, these rockets can be purchased at most toy shops and are approved by the Australian aeronautical body as long as they are not used near an airstrip or runway.

### GIANT RAFFLE

The tables containing the raffle prizes were simply loaded with “goodies” for the lucky ones. Prizes included turned blackwood bowls all the way from Tasmania (via Barry Pope) to fancy embroidered stove towels. Many thanks to all the prize donors.

**The dead batteries were given out free of charge.**

### **GHOST TOWN CABARET**

After the raffle it was then on with Ghost Town Cabaret. What a great night of fabulous entertainment. The best ever. The opening number was just great. With a giant clock face as a backdrop thanks to Rod Lawrence, and the song, "Rock around the clock" belting out, some of the period dressed "50's and 60's" rockers, "**rocked, rattled and rolled**". Boy, were they glad when the music stopped. Thankfully there were no twisted knees, ankles or hips that needed attention, only a gasping spell to get their breath back.



"The Rockers" L to R: Margot

Binkowski, Barry Kakoschke (as a clown), Lois Harvey, Rod Lawrence, June and Kevin Kakoschke, A change of pace saw Ron and Marie Tame performing a skit called "Remember When". With lines such as "*I remember the milk from the bottle, With the yummy cream on the top*", Brought back memories for many Ron and Marie also performed sketches titled, "Our House" and "In their mother's arms". They had put a lot of effort into their costumes, which were just brilliant. Thank you both.

Which one is Ron?



June Kakoschke delighted the audience with her singing, "Stupid cupid" and "(you've got) Lipstick on your collar".

Later in the programme, June also delighted the audience with her rendition of "Have you ever been lonely" and "(are you) Crazy?".

Beautifully choreographed and dressed, the "Canberra cuties" held the audience in raptures as they swayed, gestured and sang into their microphones. Gabriel later performed, Radium Hill limericks. They were terrific.



The "Canberra cuties", led by Anne Fleming belting out "You don't own me"

Just after Ian Husband launched into singing "Ghost rider in the sky", it appeared. The ghost galloped across the BBQ shed roof mounted on his white horse and cracking his "cat of nine tails" whip in wild abandon to move the herd of "ghostly cattle" on. The noise of the hooves on

the galvanised roof was deafening, partially drowning out Ian singing the song. Little dogs cowered beside the feet of their owners whimpering in fear. They hadn't seen a ghost before. And then it was gone. What, or who the hell was it?



Margot singing "Manana"

Danny Fleming has finished composing the final verses of his "Radium Hill Blues". He sang this song whilst accompanying himself on the guitar and harmonica. Should make copies of it. I'll buy one for sure. Many thanks Danny. The ever-changing LED lighting display set up by Jimi Krecu on "Tank Hill" was incredible. Thanks Jimi.

### **SUNDAY**

At 9 o'clock we gathered at the Catholic Church ruins for an Easter thanks giving service. Ron Tame spoke on the significance of Easter and was followed by 90 year old John Bezemer who used verses from the Bible to illustrate the virtues of forgiveness. Very moving. Following the service, we then moved to the Catholic School site. The year 2018 marks sixty years since the School was opened in Feb. 1958. Kay Geer, who was a first day student at the new School was joined by Anne Fleming, a

student of the Kindergarten, for a photo shoot at the School plaque. Anne by the way, was born in Radium Hill.



Kay Geer (L) and Anne Fleming at the Catholic School plaque.

Sunday afternoon was very hot. Only a few were engaged in grubbing out the prickly cactus because of the heat. (**Over 490 man hours since 2008**, whew!). **They deserved a medal.**

A copper bearing reef up near the old golf club house has a water bearing reef alongside it. With the water divining wires, I traced this reef right over to the Cemetery creek. Too hot to do anything else. The younger generation headed for a nearby “beach”, pitched a sunshade and cooled off in the dead calm waters.



Lucy Keam tossing her hair back to create a waterfall of “cooling off” water.

Sunday night and everyone rocked up for the open air drive-in movies. “Red Dog 2” was the feature film.

Following the movie, Kieran McCosker had set up a brilliant

display of artefacts containing slightly radio-active material. The variety of objects to be viewed was astounding. Early model household radio-active smoke alarms, were one such object that was displayed.

**Laugh and the world laughs with you, snore and you sleep alone.**



The flowering Golden Wattles at the Cemetery entrance look just great. They certainly bring back golden memories of loved ones no longer with us.

**Despite the cost of living it’s still quite popular.**

#### **MUSEUM RELOCATION**

The Radium Hill Heritage Museum, was located near the homestead on Tikalina St. We set it up in the mid 1990’s in a former run- down station hand’s cottage which was extensively renovated at a cost of many hundreds of hours labour and many, many hundreds of dollars. The Association was advised by the owner of Tikalina St. in July, 2018, that the Museum contents had to be removed from the property by the 31<sup>st</sup> of August, 2018.

Some of the reasons for this decision were: too many non ex-Radium Hill un-authorized visitors, dis-regard of non- entry permission, disturbance of lambing ewes, etc.

But where to put the Museum? After many phone calls, at last there was light at the end of the tunnel.

The good people of Peterborough, including **Murray Raymond (his shed)**, the **Peterborough History Group** (two rooms upstairs in the YMCA building) and the **Peterborough District Council** came to the rescue of the Museum.

On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August, four “feeble fossils”, namely Rod Lawrence, Ian Husband, Barry and Kevin Kakoschke arrived at the Museum to take down and pack-up the displays ready for the trip to Peterborough. Andy Treloar kindly let them use the cottage near the Museum to save them travelling in and out each day from Radium Hill. Thanks.

**Peter Smith, the removalist from Peterborough**, would arrive early Wednesday morning, 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug. with his removal van to convey the contents to Peterborough. But where in Peterborough?

To make more room inside the Museum for packing, on Monday evening, bundles of tied cardboard clad items were placed on the Museum verandah. Alas, during the night, starving kangaroos ripped apart many of the packages and **ate not only the cardboard, but also the package content labels.**

Bad luck,

Press on, not enough time to redo the packages, Peter would be here tomorrow morning.

A phone call from Tikalina to the Council on Tuesday morning 21<sup>st</sup> Aug. after their Monday night meeting to approve/disapprove temporary storage for the artefacts and memorabilia being provided in the old “smoko” rooms at the rear of the **Steamtown Heritage Rail**

**Centre,** The Council had approved it.

**What a relief.**

Peter arrived with his offsideer at 9.55 am Wed, loading completed by 11.45, lunch, and then to Peterborough by 3.30pm., unloaded and stored by 4.45pm. Whew!



Peter Smith, the removalist, unloading the last few Museum items at their new home in Peterborough.

After **176 hours of manual effort and associated costs of \$1,490**, success, a week before the dead-line.

With the removal to Peterborough, we don't have to worry about the heat and dust storms like those which were experienced in 2003 at Tikalina. **Summer temperatures (46deg. in the museum on Jan. 28, 2003)**

**SETTING-UP THE MUSEUM**  
More phone calls/meetings and yes, we could set-up the Museum in the **Railways ex-Timekeepers Office, Peterborough.**

On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov. 2018, six volunteers, Rod Lawrence, Pam Barrett, Kevin and June Kakoschke, Ian Husband, and Wolf Fellegger, made the journey to Peterborough to set up the Museum.

They camped in the caravan park. It was then, **“all hands on deck”** to transfer items from the storage area into the adjacent, new Museum display site.

On Saturday we were joined by two more volunteers, Jim Krecu and Kelvin.

Jim Krecu, Wolf Fellegger and Ian Husband, as a team, **“were poetry in motion”** as they installed battens, plugs and display panels around the walls of the Museum as per the sketch of a proposed layout.

The noise of the rock drills boring holes in the walls was deafening. Barry and Sylvia Kakoschke, plus Sandy Dumont also joined the “work-force” on Sunday.

June Kakoschke was kept busy snapping photographs of every item and caption for historical record purposes.



L to R. Sandy Dumont, June Kakoschke, Sylvia Kakoschke and Pam Barratt.



View looking into our “new” Museum.

By Tuesday evening, after 404 man-hours of effort and about \$2,150 in costs, **we were finished** setting up the Museum that is, right on schedule. **It looks just great. A must see.**

A fantastic effort by all who were involved. Many thanks.



**The cut open Museum donation tin bottom. Some “low life” got in before us and stole the Museum donation tin money.**

**The Museum will be officially opened next Easter Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2019, at 1.30pm.** by Ruth Whittle, OAM, the Mayor of Peterborough.

**Put it in your diary now. Hopefully we'll see you there.**

There is accommodation available in Peterborough, namely “Caravan Park” & Units, Grove St., Peterborough Motel, Globe Hotel, Peterborough Hotel, Junction Hotel, Roundhouse Motel, Granny's B&B, Free RV Park, Etc. and plenty of shops and eateries.

During the week prior to Easter, many events will take place in Peterborough including; Thursday, a quilting and art exhibition in the Town Hall, besides a scare-crow exhibition, Friday, a paper mache and wire works display, and Saturday, a street market in the town square. Peterborough is only just over three hour's drive from Adelaide. You will be able to drive up in the morning, attend the Museum opening and view its displays after lunch and return to Adelaide before dark. **A great day out, not to be missed.**

Bob Mansfield was told on the Tuesday after Easter Monday, in

2018 by the lady running the Mannahill Hotel that there would be no **Easter Re-union at Radium Hill in 2019**, because entry IS NOT PERMITTED to the Radium Hill site for such purpose by the station leaseholder.

He rang me about it on the following Thursday, and I told him that it was incorrect, I hadn't heard anything like that.

However, on Tues., 17/7/2018, **four months later**, a Maldorkey Stn, rep. told me by phone that there would be no further reunions permitted at Radium Hill. It's a shame that the Radium Hill people were not advised well before the Easter 2018 reunion about this. Instead, we will be now be having a **Re-union in Adelaide, Labour Day week-end, Sunday, October 6, 2019, starting at 1 pm.**

**It will be held in Adelaide, at the Glandore Community Centre**, Gertrude St, just off South Road where we have held them before.

**This venue will be just great for those folk who haven't been able to travel to Radium Hill.**

A few entertainment items may be presented. Please bring a plate of afternoon tea to share.

### **MEMORY JOGGERS**

\*Please contact June, our secretary if you **change your address** or hear of **any ex-Radium Hill resident who may have passed away or have recently celebrated their 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.**

**Write a comment in the guest book section of our web site.**

**View it at**

[www.radiumhill.org](http://www.radiumhill.org)

If you have any artefacts that may be suitable for displaying in the Museum please let us know.

You may like to write an item that may be suitable for inclusion in the next Feb., 2020 Newsletter. Please let us know about it if you have.

**The Radium Hill Heritage Museum will be officially opened at its new location in Peterborough, next Easter, Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2019, at 1.30pm**

**A Radium Hill Re-union to be held in Adelaide, Labour Day**

**week-end, Sunday, October 6, 2019, starting at 1 pm.**

**It will be held at the Glandore Community Centre,**

**Looking forward to seeing you there.**

**Ring June if attending these events.**

Many folk have cancelled their home phone and now have only a mobile phone and number.

**Please phone or E mail June, your current mobile phone number. Thanks.**

Trevor Morrison's ashes will be interred in the Radium Hill Cemetery in 2019 as per his cherished wish. R.I.P. Trev.

"Bob" Andrew's ashes will also be interred next to his mothers, fathers, and brothers in the Cemetery, arrangements permitting.

Ex Radium Hill resident Callum Medhurst, son of Rex and Barbara, is the new owner of the Yunta Hotel. He had operated it some years ago and has now returned.



The “Ghost rider” moving the ghostly herd of cattle across the sky



Danny Fleming playing both harmonica and guitar



At the Radium Hill Pioneer Cemetery: the Anzac commemoration service was conducted by uniformed Ron Tame, and the flag is lowered while Danny Fleming plays “The last Post” on his harmonica. 100 years since Phillip Davey won his V.C. Very moving.



The “Ghost Town Cabaret” all lit up by the full moon and Chinese lanterns. Thanks for the display Jimi.

Thank you for reading this Newsletter.

Cheers