



Mudgee Guardian and The Weekly

SUPPORT SERVICES
Alcoholics Anonymous

AA offers group help for alcoholics. AA meets every Tuesday and Saturday at 8pm at the Salvation Army Hall, Perry Street Mudgee.

Gamblers Anonymous

Group help for compulsive gamblers. Meets every Wednesday at 20 Gladstone Street, Mudgee, at 6.30pm.

VOLUNTEER RESCUE SERVICES
Gulgong

Gulgong VRA meets fortnightly behind the Gulgong Police Station (Holterman Street entrance) at 7.30pm. Anyone interested in becoming a member or having a look at what we do is welcome. Contact Secretary/data administrator Janelle Dollisson JP 0408 323 414 (Secretary/Data Administrator). Website: www.rescue.org.au

Mudgee

Mudgee Rescue Squad (VRA) meets for training on alternate Mondays, 7pm start. Contact 6372 6588 or mudgee@rescue.org.au. Anyone interested in becoming a member can contact secretary Garry Dollison on 0438 723710.

Rylstone-Kandos & District Volunteer Search and Rescue

Meetings are held at 7:30pm on the first Monday of each month. Contact 6370 1653 or rkvra@winsoft.net.au.

WALKING GROUPS

Mudgee Moovers Walking Group

Meets Tuesdays and Fridays. 7am -8am. Graded to all levels of fitness. Supportive staff. Contact Mudgee Health service, Physio Department: 6378 6297.

YOUTH SERVICES

Police & Community Youth Club (PCYC)

At Mudgee PCYC we get young people active in life: We work with young people to develop their skills, character and leadership: We reduce and prevent crime by and against young people. Contact manager Railene Doherty 6372 1367, visit the centre at 50 Market Street, Mudgee, or go to www.pcy NSW.org.au for more information.

Startline Cruisers

Startline offers training for learner drivers from the age of 12 years and up. Participants learn how to drive properly, change tyres, stop, start, park and more. Contact Tony Riley for more information on 0457 253 294.

1st Mudgee Scouts Group

The First Mudgee Scouts group provides opportunities for scouting youth to grow, learn and develop while having lots of fun along the way. 1st Mudgee Scouts are open to boys and girls from six years of age. Contact: Lance Herbert 6373 8104.

205 Army Cadet Unit (ACU)

205 Army Cadet Unit parades at Mudgee High School, Monday afternoons, 3.30- 6pm. This unit offers people from 12.5 to 20 years the opportunity to learn survival training, self discipline, adventure training, army radio training, map reading, first aid, bushcraft, team work, roping skills, military discipline and leadership skills. Cadets also take part in ceremonial parades, a drill team, weekend camping and a seven-day annual camp. Call 0499 823 886 or email alen.lucic@cadetnet.gov.au for information.

ANIMALS and WILDLIFE

Gulgong and District Avicultural Society

Interested in breeding and keeping birds? Like to become an exhibitor at shows? Want to learn more about how to care, feed and look after your birds? Intending to build an aviary? Then why not come along and talk to people with a like interest and learn or teach us.. Contact Ed Hasaart 63720656 or 63741348

Mudgee & District Kennel and Obedience Club

Mudgee and District Kennel and Obedience Club is an all breeds dog club affiliated with the NSW Canine Council Club. New members are always welcome. Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday bi-monthly starting in March. Contact E Hall on 6373 2213.

Community and not-for-profit groups which would like to be included in the community directory should email details to editor.mguardian@ruralpress.com or contact The Mudgee Guardian office in Perry Street on 6372 1455.

Hill End book tells what happened after gold rush

By LAUREN STANFORD

In the introduction to his book *Hill End Hearsay*, author Malcolm Drinkwater says: "Nothing stimulates the five senses more for memory than being there, and I was."

Malcolm first moved to Hill End in 1964, at around 11 years of age. He moved to town with his parents and older siblings after his father had his first heart attack and just never left.

Malcolm's first book *Hill End Gold*, published in 1982, is the story of Australia's first gold finds. His second book, *Hill End Hearsay*, was written to tell the story of what happened after the gold and the hype had gone.

"*Hill End Gold* sold out when I first released it and what happened was that 20 odd years later, I bought *Hill End Hearsay* out because I realised that there was more to a gold rush than gold pans, picks and shovels. I realised that it was the people who lived in a gold mining town after the rush and how they grew up that could tell the best story," Mr Drinkwater said.

Malcolm said that while writing *Hill End Hearsay* he was asked why he was writing another book.

The major reason was that his mother would always take him on weekly visits to see his grandfather.

"And as we were left to amuse each other, all Grandpa would do was tell me stories about growing up in the bush in the 1880s and he had the most wonderful stories.

"Only recently, the rest of the family was talking about the gap in Grandpa's life that no one knew what had happened to him, and I piped up with 'I do' because Grandpa had been telling me stories for years," he said.

Malcolm said his grandfather's stories had stimulated an interest in history and spending time with him had given him an "affinity with old blokes".

This affinity meant that when Malcolm and his family moved to Hill End, Malcolm spent a lot of time with the "old blokes" around town instead of with people his own age.

"It was only when they passed away that I realised that they had taught me so much more that was different to the rest of the world.

"Because Hill End was isolated, even the language was different and that was one of the reason for this book, to capture the wonderful flavours of the bush," Malcolm said.

It's ironic that while Malcolm was younger he was classed as a slow learner by his teachers at primary school.

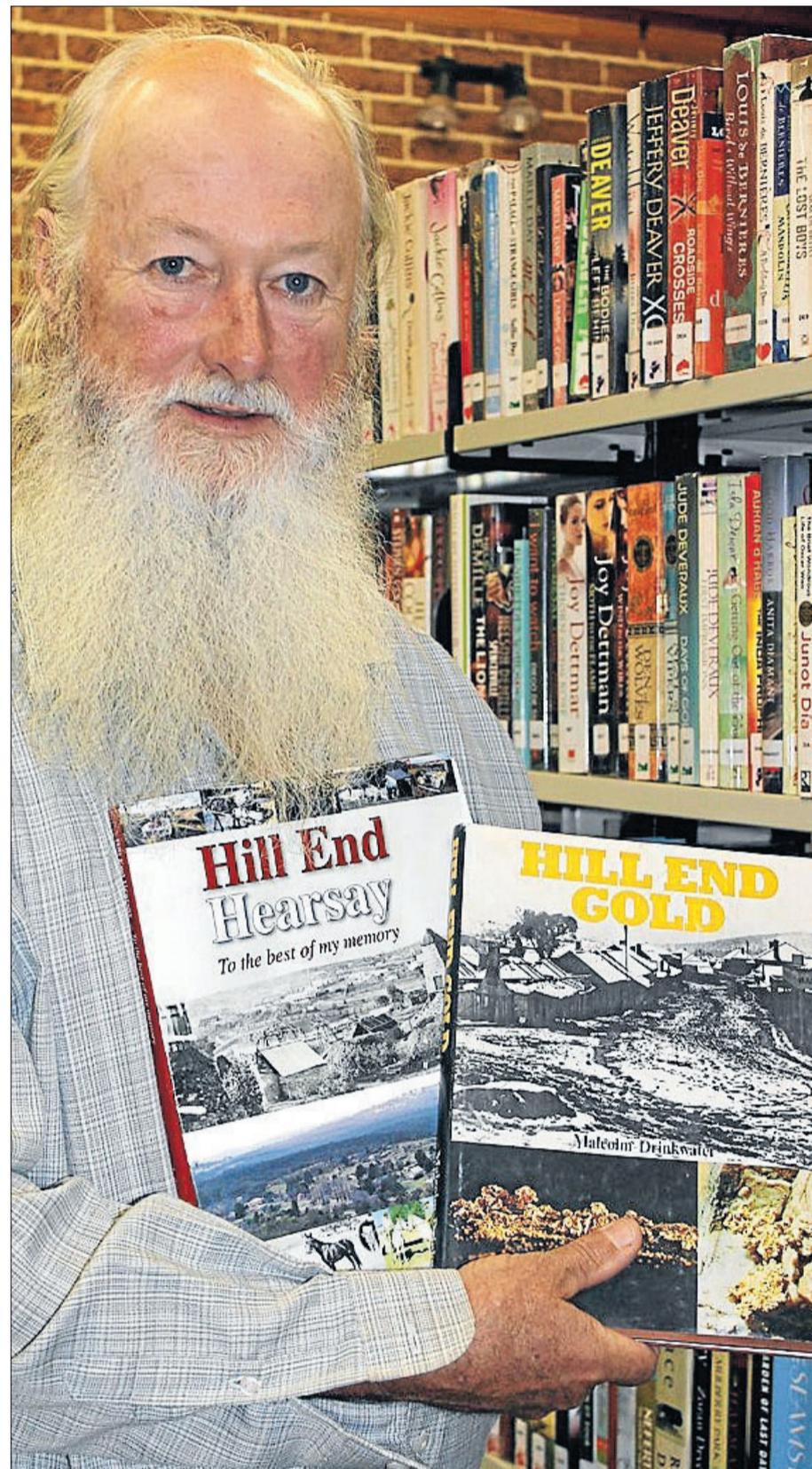
These teachers told his parents that the only reason he wasn't going to have to repeat Year Six was because at 6 foot tall, he was too big to fit in the chairs.

"I went on to high school but dropped out soon after as I had never liked school. I could read a little bit but it was never as fluent as most people can," he said.

While writing *Hill End Gold*, Malcolm cross-referenced newspaper articles with other factual resources he found at the State Archives in Sydney like mine inspector reports and company reports.

He spent three years researching every angle of the stories he was told and the reports he found for *Hill End Gold* and around two years putting together the stories for *Hill End Hearsay*.

"When *Hill End Gold* finally came out it was heralded as one of the most up-to-date papers on the discoveries of



Author Malcolm Drinkwater will launch the second edition of his books *Hill End Gold* and *Hill End Hearsay* at the Royal Hall in Cooyal on Saturday.
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gold in Australia and Hill End at the time," he said.

After not having a book launch for either of his books, Malcolm will have two book launches this weekend for the second editions.

"My mother passed way recently and before she did she said that she'd like me to bring out *Hill End Gold* again and that she thought there was a lot more I could do with *Hill End Hearsay*.

"And as of that day I've developed a sleeping disorder where I go to bed at 10pm, get up at midnight and write until 5am and then I go back to bed and sleep until 9am," Malcolm said.

Malcolm said that his theme for writing these books was that "if you buy a book about history than you're sponsoring history and without books like these history will die.

"If, as an author, you research and print something that nobody buys then you're not going to do it again."

Three launches for second editions

The second editions of *Hill End Gold* and *Hill End Hearsay* will be officially launched at Bathurst Library on Friday, March 22 at 2.30pm.

However, as numbers at the Bathurst launch are limited to 60, Malcolm has also organised launches at Hill End and Mudgee.

The local book launch will be held in Hill End on Saturday, March 23, at the Royal Hall around 3pm.

For those who will be unable to make it out to Hill End on Saturday, Malcolm will be holding a book signing at 2pm on Monday, March 25 at the Mudgee Visitors Information Centre.