

#### Issue No. 5 September 2005

#### A Message from your President: Greetings!



### Inspirational field trips

Those of you who have participated in the Association's activities since the previous Newsletter (in May) will be aware of the variety and enjoyment that such participation

can bring.

Elsewhere you can read of the Committee's meetings and working visits to Noorat, Glenormiston and Kolora in May and to Buninyong and Ballarat in July. Interspersed was our Second Annual General Meeting at Scienceworks and the accompanying Seminar "The Diversity of Dry Stone Walls" in June, and in August the General Meeting at Garfield North was followed by an overnight outing to Walhalla.

Visits to places with fine examples of the craft of dry stone walling and the interest and discussions that they generate are stimulating parts of the Association's activities. We are fortunate that such variety of countryside, significant historic places and wall styles are made accessible to the Association to visit. Many such places, in particular private properties, are normally unavailable to the public and the Association thanks those owners who willingly invite us onto their properties.

#### Committee News

Behind the enjoyment of these outings, the Committee and many keen members have been working to put the Association on a strong financial and operational footing for the future. Committee meeting at Vice-President Andrew Miller's home in Ballarat on 16 July focused on the preparation of a Strategy and Business Plan which will be the guiding document for the Association's growth and activities for the coming years. I hope that we can adopt it at the General Meeting in October.

Would you like to contribute to setting the direction for the Association? If so, please let me know, and I will be eager to hear your views. I can send you a draft copy of the Plan if you would like to contribute to the philosophy and direction that it will embody.

# Newsletter

Editor: Raelene Marshall

Other exciting topics that the Committee discussed at the July meeting included the idea of a "Panel of Champions"; a cross-section high-profile of community leaders with individual affinity with heritage, the rural environment or the arts who can give the Association a strong image as we go about promoting the Association, accessing funds and raising the profile of dry stone walls across Australia

#### Newsletter

In the May edition, I sought your suggestions for a name for the Newsletter. Forty-six names were put forward and, among the dozen or so members at the Committee meeting on 16 July, a preferential voting process occurred. Two Committee members offered views on the process to select a name. John Collier insisted that the President should have the right of veto over the vote and Rob Wuchatsch suggested that if we didn't like the winning name, "we just won't accept it!"

Following a dubiously secret poll, but ably scrutineered by Jim Mulholland, there was one clear winner. In the interests of democracy, fair play and harmony, I willingly accept "The Flag Stone" as our Newsletter's new name. The fact that it was proposed by John Collier and lodged with much fanfare moments before nominations closed is both co-incidental and ironic! Congratulations, John. Other place-getters included "Cowan's Chronicle", "Stone News" and "Wall Paper". To those members who proposed "Dry Argument", "Xanadu" and "Loose Stones" among 21 others, I can advise that your entries were left in the starting stalls.

#### Next Meeting and Field Visit

I invite you to come to our next General Meeting, and to be part of the rewarding experience of the field visit to the fascinating garden of "Turkeith", near Birregurra, on Saturday 15 October. Further details are in this Newsletter.

Best wishes

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 18 JUNE 2005

Following the success of our first AGM, members again enjoyed the convenient and congenial facilities provided by the generous hospitality of Scienceworks, a wonderful, hands-on museum in Spotswood in the western suburbs of Melbourne.

The meeting section of the day commenced with the AGM chaired by our president, Jim Holdsworth. The business, (which included changes to the model rules to facilitate administration and the election of two new committee members) was dispatched with smooth efficiency allowing ample time for the ordinary meeting which followed the AGM and closed, as scheduled, by The highlight of the morning was the 12.30pm. distribution of a most impressive Annual Report incorporating Committee reports, financial statements and an overview of the Association's background and structure. Additional relevant data for the archive will be added to this overview as more information becomes available, especially from other states, but the document is one the Association can be proud of and congratulations are well deserved for all involved in its production.

After a break for lunch (during which some took the opportunity to inspect Scienceworks' own dry stone wall, constructed by committee member and professional waller, Alistair Tune, to coincide with the Rare Trades exhibition launched at Scienceworks two years ago) members, friends and interested others gathered in the theatrette for a most interesting, entertaining and informative afternoon seminar.

The formal programme began with our guest speaker, Sandy Roberts (of Channel 7 fame) sharing with us his infectious enthusiasm for dry stone



walls. His talk, which ranged over a broad spectrum of thoughts about and experiences with, stones in general and walls in particular, was accompanied by a most interesting collection of slides.

Jim Holdsworth then presented his visual diary and personal reflections on walls of many types and applications garnered from his recent travels in Europe. This was followed by yet another perspective on walls presented by our secretary, Raelene Marshall, who has twice presented papers at the International Conference on Dry Stone Walls. Raelene challenged the audience with the question "When does craft become art?" and supported her observations with slides demonstrating some of the crossover areas, notably in the work of Andy Goldsworthy.

Then followed two videos: one on the Millennium Wall project which brought together wallers from across the United Kingdom to construct sections of a wall to celebrate the year 2000, the other, locally produced about styles of walls in northern New South Wales.

**Anne Mulholland** 

#### NEXT MEETING AND FIELD TRIP: SATURDAY OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup> at 'Turkeith' Mooleric Road, Birregurra (turn off Princes Hwy approx half way between Winchelsea and Colac: Vic roads map 92 E6)

Open to members and their friends the 'Turkeith' dry stone wall event will commence with the DSWAA's October meeting [11.30 a.m-12.30 p.m.] This will be followed by lunch [BYO] [12.30-1.30 p.m] and a tour of this historical and fascinating property. Cost \$5.00 Members: \$10.00 Visitors: payable on the day.

Turkeith is home to a magnificent range of original and contemporary dry stone walls. The garden was designed for the Ramsay family in 1903/4 by William Guilfoyle who designed the Melbourne



Botanic Gardens. It reached maturity in the 1930s, 40s and 50s then it endured a gradual decline in maintenance which extended until 1986 when the Gordon family took over. A restoration programme which had been in place since then, is gradually restoring this fascinating garden to its former glory. Part of the charm of the Turkeith garden is its isolated situation at the centre of a 2000 hectare working sheep station on the basalt plains. Magnificent oaks, elms, pines, palms, cypress and gums are the major trees dating from the earliest plantings, and many different species have been added since 1986, including magnolias, oaks, sycamores, elms, hawthorns and fruit trees. Under these trees is a wide range of shrubs, hardy perennials and drought tolerant plants and a splendid range of bulbs all year round. The major attraction of this garden however is Guilfoyle's marvellous flowing design' Excerpt from the 5th Edition of 'Historic and Country Gardens of the Geelong Region'.

Historic Gardens' Council workshop at Turkeith in May 2004. Wall constructed by waller David Long with assistance of a range of volunteers.



| 2006 FIELD TRIPS AND MEETINGS<br>Calendar of Dates for your Diary |      |                    |
|---|------|--------------------|
| Month   | Date | Location           |
| February  | 11   | t.b.a              |
| April   | 8    | t.b.a              |
| June  | 17   | Scienceworks (AGM) |
| August  | 12   | t.b.a              |
| October   | 14   | t.b.a              |
| See further details Issue 6                                       |      |                    |

### RARE JEWEL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA HISTORY IN DRY STONE TOWN

The saying, necessity is the mother of all invention, is particularly apt when talking about a tiny place in WA's remote far north. At an isolated little place called the Island, Lake Austin, near Cue, there is evidence of housing made from flat pieces of local ironstone nestled amongst the hilly and rocky terrain.

Set high to capture the breeze, these amazing structures are the only known example in WA where buildings have been constructed using dry stone walling methods. Alongside the simple huts are mine shafts, where the prospectors who lived there in the late 1800s searched for gold. The fact that the huts are so meticulously built, suggests that the prospectors were familiar with dry stone walling techniques from their former homes in the UK and Europe.

The ironstone itself would have been an ideal material to build with. The flatness of the stone would have made the task easier, coupled with the fact that it was easily accessible as it litters the landscape.

The pride of the builders in their modest homes is evident, even in this remote location. Attention to detail is apparent in the door and window openings and fireplaces, all of which feature sharp and well defined edges. This suggests time and effort was taken cutting the ironstone to shape.

Lake Austin was named after surveyor Robert Austin, who explored the Murchison hinterland in 1854. He initially named the salt lake 'the Great Inland Marshes'. By the end of 1891, there were between 300 and 400 men on the Murchison Goldfield, with many more on their way. Camps were established in places near water, where it was more likely that gold would be found. Lake Austin was one such place.

A township grew around the prospectors' camps and when the Railway was extended to Cue, a railway station was established at Lake Austin. The place is a rare example of the accommodation and workings of individual prospectors. It provides a significant contribution to the understanding of life on the Murchison Goldfields at that time.



The Huts at Lake Austin have been identified as warranting full assessment for possible inclusion in the Western Australian Register of Heritage Places. For those

considering a visit to this isolated place, it is worth noting that there is no signage and the landscape is littered with abandoned mine shafts. Great caution should be exercised at all times.

Thanks to Penny O'Connor and Sara Giudici from the Heritage Council of W.A which is the State's advisory body on heritage matters. For more information including access to the State Register of Heritage Places see: <a href="https://www.heritage.wa.gov.au">www.heritage.wa.gov.au</a>

#### THE FARMERS' VOICE

**Cathy Woodward** 

Sometimes when driving along the Princes Highway through the Stony Rises of Western Victoria, one often sees tourists photographing the dry stone walls of the area. Thus the heritage and craftsmanship of these walls, built by our forefathers and pioneers of the area is being preserved on film and video, and no doubt transported, displayed and discussed by people in all parts of the world.

For us who live, work and play on the volcanic plains these walls hold much more than just intrinsic value. Not only do they define our property boundaries but also provide shelter for our stock, acting as barriers against vermin, noxious weeds and fire. Outhouses and tank stands, dairies and piggeries were often built from the stone so readily available and old wells often were lined internally with dry stone walls. Indeed whole houses have been built, stone upon stone and then rendered, resulting in both interior and exterior walls being almost a metre thick. Even today this natural resource is still widely used by local farmers. Tracks and culverts, stockyard floors, drinking troughs and gateways often have a stone base.

Our children have built cubbies, we have stone steps to the front door, garden edges, ponds, patios and verandahs paved with volcanic rock, and graves of beloved pets carefully laid out and marked with stone edges. Some of our stone is transported to other areas to become garden features, chimneys, feature walls and monuments.

The walls provide a home to many creatures, not least the rabbit, tiger snake and the redback spider and soldier beetles, the curse of our vegetable gardens, love the dry warmth of the stone walls. Our stock rubbing on the walls dislodge rocks, and more frequently now we are dealing with growing numbers of native animals such as kangaroos and wallabies, along with deer, pigs and goats on our properties.



As farmers we are privileged to be custodians of the work of our ancestors. It is an endless and time-consuming job maintaining the walls, replacing heavy cope-stones and plugging holes. Gateways often need to be widened and less stable ground results in walls spreading- all backbreaking work. But these walls hold our history, they shape our properties, support our livelihood, confine our stock. Let's make sure that future generations see the 'real thing', not just a computer-generated image of what 'used to be'.

### Gathering Stones...



Behind the scenes the Committee and Working Group have been working hard. Very hard!! Although

Jim keeps us on our toes and on track, these get togethers are not all work and no play and have evolved into other 'mini-tour' opportunities which have enabled us to enjoy each others company and gain a greater knowledge of walls in the local area. In May, the meeting at the home of Niel and Josie Black was followed by a fascinating tour of Mt Noorat and walls at the Glenormiston Agricultural College and the areas around Kolora. In July, we were fortunate to be guided by Andrew Miller around the picturesque area Buninyong near Ballarat. Members are welcome to become involved in these meetings. The calendar for 2006 will be available in a future Bulletin



May 14<sup>th</sup>
Meeting and
mini tour of
'Glenormiston'.
Hosted by Niel
and Josie Black.



July 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting and mini tour of Buninyong area. Hosted by Andrew and Karin Miller



Our warmest thanks to all who have contributed to this year's newsletters. We welcome and rely on your feedback and contributions. In future issues we also hope to have input from, farmers, wallers, landscape designers, historians, planners and the tourism sector. As this is the last edition before Christmas, have a safe and happy Festive Season and look forward to our Sixth Issue in early 2006.

#### Do you know the Title of this Book?



"Ahead, he could see the bright limestone curve of Crow Scar high up on his right, and, as he drew closer, he noticed the local police searching a field marked off by irregular

drystone walls. The limestone shone bright in the sun, and the walls stood out against the grass like pearl necklaces on an emerald velvet cushion. By the side of the north-south wall, lay the body."

#### COOKING CORNER:

Cockatoo hot-pot

This traditional recipe was discovered during some research into early Dry Stone Walls in the goldfields region of central Victoria. It is as appropriate today as when it was written.

Secure a good sized cockatoo, sulphur-crested are best; preferably plump (about 2 - 3 lb). Pluck and dress carefully. Peel and dice potatoes, carrots, parsnips, onions, etc. and set aside. From the material not yet used in your wall, find a rounded vesicular stone of similar weight to the bird.

Place the bird and the stone in a large pot with several fresh gum leaves, cover with salted water and simmer over a low heat. Top up the water occasionally. When the stone becomes soft, remove the gum leaves and add the vegetables. When ready to serve, discard the cockatoo and eat the stone.

"Goldfields Courier" 1 April 1872



WE'RE GOING ELECTRONIC with future Editions of your Newsletter. In line with current environmental practices, those members who have supplied us with an email address, will receive a full-colour

electronic version of the 'The Flag Stone'. Please let me know if these arrangements do not suit you. Issue

Number 6. Mail recipients: hard copy as normal. We welcome articles for the January 06 Issue and are encouraging regular contributions, especially from farmers.

Deadline Jan 8 .... before Christmas if possible!

Meeting and Field Tour February 11<sup>th</sup> 2006: Early plans are underway to hold the first '06 event in and around Eltham. Among the gardens we hope to visit is the home of Gwen Ford looking at the dry stone walls of landscape designer the late Gordon Ford who said:

"I believe that the gardens offer is something beyond the matheral world. They provide a spiritual component allowing is to participate in the wonder of alatton...

I became obsessed with searching for masses and voids.

I looked for them and found them in the sky and the clouds... I often lay on my back... seeing in the juxtaposition of the clouds and sky her definition of the nature of the landscape. I recognise the fanciful element in this reaction... yet it did telp me understand the landscape"

## WALHALLA MEETING AND FIELD TOUR: AUGUST 13 and 14 Anne Mulholland

As dusk moved with the evening mist down through Walhalla Village, the eerily beautiful sound of bagpipes rose up into the surrounding mountains. We left our explorations and followed the sound to the town's rotunda to find DSWAA member John Menzies, sharing his love of the pipes (and his considerable skill in



playing them) with a gathering circle of listeners in the town's Rotunda an absolutely perfect setting. This was by no

means the only highlight in a wonderful weekend but it was certainly a memorable moment.

The Walhalla weekend (the first of many weekends

away, we hope) was a great success in every way. lt began with sumptuous morning tea at John and Deidre Collier's home, high on a hill at Garfield with views over



newly green valleys at the front and forest and mountain behind. The bi-monthly ordinary meeting was well attended and produced lively discussion, well disciplined by our very efficient president, Jim Holdsworth. Ideas for future directions flowed freely and plans put in place for future events. After the formal meeting we took advantage of the magnificent views and venue to eat our BYO lunch in the sunshine on the terrace. Our sincere appreciation to John and Deidre for their generous hospitality.

Unfortunately we missed a planned rendezvous with John Aldersea and Barb Hood, our Walhalla guides for the weekend, as the museum closed earlier than expected and the secretary and scribe got lost getting there (no further comment!) but members enjoyed a self-guided tour of the township and the unexpected, aforementioned recital from the rotunda, before the short journey back to Rawson Village to check in for our dinner, bed and breakfast accommodation package. At \$73 per person twin share, this proved excellent value with very comfortable and spacious rooms, access to a well-equipped and private conference room, delicious, home-cooked meals and even our own, special DSWAA printed menu.

After a leisurely and convivial dinner, John Aldersea, provided a fascinating background talk on Walhalla based on his 60 year association with the village which led, eventually, to the recent limited publication of his

book "Valley of Gold", a copy of which has been purchased by the Association for our Archive collection. Informal questions and chatting about the village and the history of its many dry stone walls continued into the night.



After a hearty breakfast and collection of our preordered packed lunches on Sunday morning,

we made our way back to Walhalla for the main event of the weekend – a tour of the walls with John and Barb. After a steep but short climb up the rise behind the old hospital, we followed one of the original tram tracks from the old mining days, winding along one side of the mountain overlooking the Village. Since the glory days of mining when the township boasted as many as 4000 residents, the original home-sites have mostly long gone and forest re-growth has taken over.

However, John's keen eye and intimate local knowledge led us to dozens of the literally hundreds of walls



built by German, Swiss, Italian and Scottish miners against the steeply sloping sides of the valley to create small areas of level ground on which to build homes for their families. John's knowledge, his love of the town and its history, and the incredibly detailed research for his book, together with his wealth of local stories made for a totally fascinating day. Thank you John and Barb!

Back to the township for coffee by mid-afternoon then home to Melbourne and beyond with another very satisfying DSWAA event to savour.



Make sure you don't miss the next one!

### From Across the World ROCK FENCES OF THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY

Readers will remember in the February and May issues we published parts one and two of this fascinating article which illustrates, in a most interesting manner the spread of the dry stone craft to newly settled areas of the world, the universal problems of contemporary location and preservation of walls and the commonality of the creative solutions to such problems.

#### The final instalment is presented here

In one case, I was able to trace the construction of a double-walled rock fence to an early immigrant from Tennessee. Although nothing is known about what part of Tennessee he came from, his fence, along with many others in the county, closely resembled those from the Nashville Basin. That area is underlain by limestone, much of which is exposed in the fields, making farming difficult. In the 19th century, this rock was used to build many miles of rock fences to enclose fields and pasture. Poorer farmers were likely to build their rock fences themselves, but the wealthier estate owners hired Irish masons to build fences on their plantations. Enslaved persons also helped build these fences and after the Civil War, the Irish masons were soon replaced by African-American freedmen. The rock fences of Tennessee are quite similar to those found in the Bluegrass region of Kentucky, but have not been as well-documented.

Although Kentucky contributed only 5% of the population of Blanco County, that state's rock fences have been studied extensively and are welldocumented in Rock Fences of the Bluegrass. As with many examples in Blanco County, the rock fences of Kentucky were built with field, creek, or quarried rock and constructed with double walls, tie stones, battered sides, and frequently featuring cap or coping stones. These fences were usually around four feet tall, not counting the coping, about 18" wide at the top, and typically used to enclose barnyards, stockyards, paddocks, house yards, cemeteries, gardens, pastures, and fields. It is thought that the builders were probably Scottish or Ulster Scots-Irish because Irish of Scottish descent and Scots made up a large percentage of lateeighteenth-century Kentucky population. The old rock fences of Scotland dating to the Enclosure Acts of 1710 are identical to the earliest Kentucky fences.

The fences found in Blanco County have a more "home-made" appearance than most of the Kentucky and Tennessee fences. For example, a professional stonemason would never allow aligned joints in a wall or as open a fit. Special features found in Kentucky fences, such as vertical or crenellated coping, repeating coursing patterns, or built-in features such as stiles, are not found in Blanco County. In Bourbon County, at the centre of the Bluegrass, there were fifty professional stonemasons in 1870, while same time in Blanco County, there was only one. Seventy-five percent of the heads of households in Blanco County in 1870 were farmers, which suggests that while in Kentucky many landowners employed professional masons to build

their rock fences, the farmers in Blanco County built their own.

There were no single-walled fences reported in either Tennessee or Kentucky, so I looked to New England, which contributed a small group of immigrants to Blanco County, to find a precedent. The rock fences of New England are the subject of a regional fascination and have been studied extensively. For my information, I relied heavily on Susan Allport's Sermons in Stone: The Stone Walls of New England and New York and Robert M. Thorson's Stone by Stone: The Magnificent History of New England's Stone Walls.

In Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire, many of the remaining rock fences are single-walled, called "single-strand," "balanced stone," or "lace" walls. Held together only by the weight of the rocks, they are nevertheless stable and rarely need repair. They were built with large spaces between the rocks, either to allow wind to blow through, discourage sheep, or simply in response to the material available. These types of single-walled fences with large openings have also been found in Blanco County, especially where the local field rock was larger in size and rounder in shape.

Double-walled fences are more often found in the north and east of New York and northeast Pennsylvania and built in the conventional way, but then capped with large flat stones and only sometimes finished with angled coping. This style was more likely to be used around fields to protect crops, while single-walled fences were used to enclose pasture or mark property boundaries. Farmers in Blanco County used their fences in a similar way, with single-walls used more frequently as boundary markers and double-walls to enclose fields.

It is likely that the rock fence tradition in New England came over with British immigrants in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and most research points to Great Britain, and particularly Scotland as the probable source region of most of the rock fences in the United States. A variety of types of rock fence construction techniques are found in Scotland and northern England, depending on the underlying geology and the function of the fence. For example, in the Lake District of northern England, Scotland, and other parts of England and Wales, where the natural sedimentary rock comes in smaller, flatter slabs, one finds more double-walled fences, built in the conventional style with a broad foundation, flat coursing, throughstones and angled coping.

On the other hand, in southwest Scotland, one finds the "single dyke," a rock fence constructed without a foundation and made of a carefully balanced single stack of rocks. This technique developed in areas where there is a great deal of igneous rock, such as in Scotland and northern England, as a way to use larger, course-textured types of stone, such as granite.

With the exception of Blanco County, no information has been found indicating the presence in the United States of a third type of rock fence, a hybrid of the double and single-walled fence, called a "Galloway dyke" in Scotland. It is possible that in the United States it has not yet been differentiated from the single-

walled fence. Therefore, it is necessary to look to Scotland to find precedence for this construction technique.

In Scotland, the Galloway dyke is built where the local rock is medium to large in size, with fewer small rocks for hearting. The lower section of this fence is built as a conventional double wall with smaller, flatter rocks and the top section built as a single wall with larger stones. Many of these fences were built particularly to contain sheep—in western Scotland, for example, it is recommended that the upper course be narrow enough to allow sheep see through it. Rainsford-Hanney explains that "[t]he tottering appearance, and seeing light through the stones, deter them from any attempt to scale it, together with the want of footing on top."

Drawings and photographs of this type of construction in Scotland show a clear differentiation between the two halves. In Blanco County, however, the double base and single top appear to be constructed all out of the same size rocks (Figure 5). This strategy seems to be a variation on the Scottish version, but the double base is not as tall as that in Scotland, the single wall portion beginning very quickly, perhaps only one-quarter or one-third up the face. Because sheep farming was an important industry in Blanco County at one time, it is not surprising that a fencing technique might be used which is known to deter sheep from climbing.



Figure 5. Hybrid form of rock fence with double base and single top, constructed of waterworn granite boulders. Blanco County, 2004.

When I compared the pattern of distribution of rock fence types in Blanco County to its geology, I found a similar relationship between fence type and available building material. In the southern two-thirds of the county, 70% of the fences were of double-walled construction. The top layer of most of the underlying bedrock is a limestone which tends to fracture on a horizontal plane, forming flat, angular pieces (Figure 6). On the other hand, the bedrock in the northern third of the county is quite varied in composition and form. Although flat, angular limestone makes up about 50% of the substrate, the other half is comprised of a range of other types of limestone, as well as sandstone, dolomite, and granite. While flat, sedimentary stone can be formed into double-walled fences, dolomite and granite often appear as large, rounded boulders (Figure 7). In the northern third of the county, only 33% of rock fences were of double-walled construction, while the rest were either single-walled or the hybrid form. Therefore, it appears that when faced with varying geological patterns, fence-builders in Blanco County responded in much the same way as those in Great Britain, by adjusting the form to accommodate available material.



Figure 6. Rock fence made from flat, angular slabs of the Glen Rose formation in southern Blanco County.



Figure 7. Single-wall rock fence made from dolomite boulders in northern Blanco County.

#### Conclusion

After surveying the rock fences of Blanco County, I found no difference between the rock fences of the German and Anglo-American settlement areas. The survey also confirmed that the fences are indeed very similar to those found in Tennessee, Kentucky, New England, and Great Britain, which suggests that the tradition was brought to Blanco County from those areas and probably originated in Great Britain.

How, then, did rock fences become such a strong marker of German settlement? Before they left Germany in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, emigrants prepared for farming in Texas by studying guidebooks which described Texas agriculture in detail. Once they arrived in Texas, they also learned new techniques through direct contact with their Southern neighbours and shared this information among each other through an apprenticeship system. The Germans also founded agricultural societies to share information and help each other succeed as farmers in Texas.

The Germans who came to the Texas Hill Country were prepared for life in a new environment and were quite open to learning new techniques. It would not be surprising, then, that they would also adopt rock fence construction if it appeared to be useful and pass it along through the apprenticeship system and agricultural societies. Rock fences appealed to, as Terry Jordan-Bychkov described it, "a Teutonic need for permanence," and the German settlers took to them with great enthusiasm, building so many miles of fence that they are now associated more with German than Anglo-American settlement.

The forms of the rock fences of the Texas Hill Country reflect the ongoing interaction between cultural groups and between culture and nature. In this rural historic landscape, cultural traditions are continually molded by the land, the rock, the soil, the weather, and the needs of the animals and people who live there. The result is a pattern on the landscape—traced in stone—that ties them together.

Laura Knott

#### Who's Who in the DSWAA

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**New Members:** please complete (or photocopy) and EITHER e-mail to <a href="mailto:dswaa@optusnet.com.au">dswaa@optusnet.com.au</a> OR post to DSWAA Membership C/o Rob Wuchatsch P.O Box 189 World Trade Centre 3005

**Payment:** Monies can be deposited in the Association's bank account 013 274 4997 47356 at any ANZ Bank OR send a cheque payable to The Dry Stone Walls Association of Australia inc. to the above address. (\*Please indicate payment method below)

| The Dry Stone Walls Association of Australia inc. no.A004473S Application for Membership |              |  |
|--|--------------|--|
| Professional (voting rights)   | \$40.00      |  |
| Individual (voting rights)   | \$25.00      |  |
| Corporate (voting rights)  | \$80.00      |  |
| Family (voting rights)   | \$40.00      |  |
| * Paying by: Cheque enc. ☐ Bar   | nk Deposit 🗆 |  |
| Name   |              |  |
| Address  |              |  |
| Phone Mobile   |              |  |
| e-mail   |              |  |
| Area of Interest eg Farmer Heritage etc  |              |  |
|  |              |  |

Some websites you may like to visit
www.astoneuponastone.com; www.dswa.org.uk
www.rbgsyd.gov.au; www.pierreseche.net
www.jboyweb.com/drystonewall/index.html

| Contributors: Photographs and Illustrations |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| P 1   | John Collier                             |  |
| P 2   | Jim Holdsworth & Helen Page              |  |
| P 3   | Heritage Council of W.A & June Barling   |  |
| P4&5  | Jim Holdsworth, Andrew Miller, Gwen Ford |  |
| P 7   | Laura Knott                              |  |
| P 8   | Geoff Duggan & Jim Holdsworth            |  |



**Building Walls...** our Wallers Geoff Duggan and Alistair Tune have reported in to say they are busy building a wall for a friend on a property south west of Sydney in Mulgoa. They are joined by U.K. Wallers Chris Ellis from the Cotswolds and Billy Elliot formally from Newcastle who now lives in Clunes in Victoria.



#### !!! Danger Page - Destruction of Dry Stone Walls

Robinsons Road, Truganina



#### 23 March 2005

Dry Stone Wall on west side of road, south of Middle Road

Robinsons Road, Truganina

#### 1 August 2005

Wall destroyed to install services for new Remand Centre





Developer destruction Harvest Home Rd Whittlesea

24 August 2005