

# HERITAGE

NEWSLETTER OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION  
OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS

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## CONVICTS BUILT LENNOX BRIDGE

The earliest arched stone bridge  
on mainland Australia

by John Low

Work began on Surveyor-General Thomas Mitchell's "Pass at Emu" in August 1832. About half way up the proposed route it was found necessary to take the road across a creek, a plan that required the bridging of a 30 foot deep gully with a span of 20 feet.

Mitchell, who considered well-designed bridges a sign of civilised society, seized the opportunity to experiment with a bridge designed to stand the test of time, unlike the flimsy wooden structures that characterised the colony's roads at the time. For this he needed the services of someone who possessed

both the necessary technical knowledge and the experience of building stone bridges, a difficult request in a land where the art of bridge construction was virtually unknown.

The right man did, however, appear in the person of David Lennox, a recently arrived master mason of 20 years experience who had worked on a number of major bridges in Britain. Legend has it that Mitchell discovered him working as a day labourer constructing a stone wall in Macquarie Street, Sydney.

By November 1832, much of the stone for the bridge had been quarried and cut and, obtaining lime from Windsor, Lennox began the laying process. He selected his work party personally and carefully from the larger road gang working on the Pass.

The party consisted of about 20



convicts, an overseer, a constable and an armed sentry and worked at the site from about 7am until 4pm, when it returned to the stockade at Emu Plains.

Despite the absconding of one convict, which held up the sawing of timber for the arch centering, Lennox's relationship with his convict workers appears to have been a good one. Assistant Surveyor John Abbott described Lennox to Mitchell as "indefatigable in instructing them how to work". Indeed, so effective was he that Governor Bourke let it be known that he would try to prevent the services of these newly skilled workers from being lost to the Department of Roads & Bridges after the Lapstone job was finished.

Lennox's confidence in his men was apparent later when, in May 1833, he was beginning to transfer operations to his next job.

He petitioned the Governor to remit the remainder of the iron gang sentences of 8 convicts he wished to take with him. Although some of the sentences were, he said, "for heavy crimes, it appears to me to have been more the effect of a bad system at that time in regard to prisoners than any particular depravity of the prisoners themselves".

The convicts in question were: William Brady; John Carsons; Robert Hyams; John Johnson; Patrick Malowney (or Maloney); Thomas Nelson; James Randall; Daniel Williams (an "American black").

The sentences of Brady, Carsons, Malowney and Nelson were remitted while Randall and Williams were promised remittal of their sentences after a further 6 months good behaviour.

*Continued page 2*



*From the president's pen.....*

## THE BUILDER WHO MADE AUSTRALIA

The Australia Day 2009 address by the Governor Marie Bashir, nominating Lachlan Macquarie as the founder of modern Australia, has boosted plans to recognise Macquarie next year, the bicentenary of his swearing in.

Macquarie arrived in a primitive, near starving, largely drunken and divided colony and turned it into a community with bright hopes for the future and the making of a nation's economy.

Macquarie was sworn in on January 1, 1810.

Arthur Phillip had left office dispirited and exhausted and William Bligh was overthrown by the military.

Macquarie was also to leave unhappily. Yet, Professor Bashir said, "He stands today as one of the greatest of Australian governors, a true pioneer of the nation, unmatched for vision, magnanimity, compassion and zest for accomplishment."

He was many believe the founder of modern Australia. Certainly, he was the first governor to refer officially to Australia by that name, in 1817, endorsing the name used by Matthew Flinders.

He instituted a period of unprecedented progress. In many ways he set the pattern and defined the priorities of enlightened public administration in the modern era.

He built schools, hospitals, roads on a scale not seen before. He instituted our system of public and private education, introduced currency, the nation's first bank, and public health care.

Macquarie encouraged the establishment of the country's first independent newspaper and libraries.

Before he left in 1821, NSW had its first court houses and first magistrates. There were roads to Parramatta, the Blue Mountains and further west.

There were five planned towns including Richmond, Windsor Castlereagh, Pitt Town, Wilberforce and Windsor. Bathurst was largely his creation as was Liverpool while Campbelltown was named after his wife whose maiden name was Campbell of Airds (the Scottish district now a suburb of Campbelltown).

Today's legacy from Macquarie are the public works and buildings, carried out with the assistance of Francis Greenway, a former convict appointed civil architect

His treatment of convicts, free settlers and the Aborigines was more than humane. He encouraged well-behaved convicts into the wider community through tickets of leave.

Macquarie encouraged exploration to expand the pastoral land available and so improved the agricultural production and livestock numbers.

In her address Governor Bashir asked, "Can we not see in Macquarie's example of tolerance and humanity the beginning of the great Australian tradition of the 'fair go' play that many regard as our defining characteristic as a people?"

Macquarie, a Scot of energy and vision, ruled from 1810 until 1821 restoring order and bringing stability to a colony whose interests he did much to promote.

It is appropriate that the many activities being planned throughout NSW and the region have the support of the heritage sector and community at large.

**John Leary, OAM - President, Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisation**

## CONVICT OVERSEES FINISHED OFF BRIDGE

*Continued from page 1*

When Lennox moved his headquarters to the site of his next assignment - construction of a stone bridge over Prospect Creek on the Great Southern Road near Liverpool - he left the completion of the Lapstone Bridge in the hands of his young overseer, George Neilson, to whom he paid periodic visits until the work was finished. Lennox reported the bridge completed in early July 1833.

*John Low is the former local history librarian, Blue Mountains City Council and an individual member of BMACHO. Photograph of Lennox Bridge - April 2009 by John Leary, OAM.*

## Federal funding for cultural centre

The Australian Government will provide \$1.98 million towards the construction of the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre in Katoomba, Federal Member for Macquarie has announced.

Mr Debus said the construction of the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre will create an iconic new attraction with regional and national significance.

The project involves construction and fit-out of cultural facilities including the City Art Gallery, World Heritage Interpretive Centre and a viewing platform.

The Blue Mountains City Council, NSW Government and the local community have invested 10 years of planning and consultation to make this happen, said Mr Debus

"I love fools' experiments. I am always making them" ...*Charles Darwin*



# “Beneath the Southern Cross” - A significant exhibition at the State Mine

A partnership between the City of Greater Lithgow Mining Museum Inc. and Unions NSW has provided the people of Lithgow and surrounding districts with a unique opportunity to experience historic artefacts related to the Trade Union movement in New South Wales.

An exhibition of union banners, badges and other artefacts has been installed at the State Mine Museum, State Mine Gully Road, Lithgow.

This exhibition will be in place until the end of October 2009.

It includes large banners used in street parades that form part of the Sydney Trades Hall collection.

Many of these items have not been accessible to the public before as there has been no space large enough to exhibit them.

It is appropriate that the former State Mine Bath House is the main venue for this exhibition.

This was a place in which the employees of the State Mine gathered to change for work and to shower at the end of their shifts.

A companion exhibition of Lithgow's union memorabilia was on display at the Lithgow Regional Library from April 4 to May 5, 2009.

The Sydney Trades Hall collection exhibition will be open to the public during museum opening hours between April 4 and October 31 2009.

The museum is open from 10:00am to 4:00pm on Saturday and Sunday, and school and public holidays.

Access to the exhibition is included in the museum's standard entry fee of \$5 per adult, \$3 concession, \$2 per child or \$12 per family.

Booked tours can be arranged at any time by contacting the museum on 6353 1513 or through the website: [www.statemine.org.au](http://www.statemine.org.au)



*Pictured above are two of the trade union banners on display. The banners often made of silk, depicted the tools and processes of the trade. Below are banners on display at the State Mine Museum.*



# TARELLA, AN 1890s COTTAGE PRESERVED AS AN EXAMPLE OF A BYGONE AGE

Tarella was built in 1890 by John McLaughlin, a Sydney solicitor, on a 50 acre grant of land awarded to him for his service in the Volunteer Reserve.

The house continued to be owned by the McLaughlin family until the estate was left to the Blue Mountains Historical Society on the death of the last member of the family, Beryl McLaughlin the Society's benefactor.

The cottage stands in its original state, and is set up in the period of the early 1900s.



**John McLaughlin**

John McLaughlin was born in 1850 in Mulligar, Westmeath, Ireland and was one of four boys to Anne and Daniel McLaughlin. Daniel was a tenant farmer and took his family to Australia in 1852 for a better life. They settled in Millers Forest in the Hunter District where four further children were born.

Daniel was insistent on a good education and so John was educated first in Maitland and later at Lyndhurst College in Sydney. At Lyndhurst College he was awarded a prize for French and was school captain. The rest of the family moved to Rockhampton in Queensland after the death of Daniel in 1866.

After college John was articled to the legal firm of WC Curtis and remained there until 1869. On completion of his articles, John became managing clerk for the

leading law firm, Allen, Bowden and Allen. He later went into partnership with Frederick Gannon under the name of Gannon and McLaughlin.

During this period John joined the Volunteer Force. After five years' service in this Force every officer and non commissioned officer was entitled to a free grant of 50 acres of land. John was awarded his grant of 50 acres in 1870 and after a surveying trip to the Blue Mountains in 1879, led by GM Pitt a licensed surveyor, John chose 50 acres at Wentworth Falls on a site he considered to be *'the most beautiful in the mountains'*.

Similar to other land owners he did not build until later as there was a proposal to build a large township at Wentworth Falls and land owners hoped they would be able to sell at a later date with great advantage to themselves. The township was later built at Katoomba.

In 1880 John entered the NSW parliament as the Member for Upper Hunter and in 1882 he married Ada Amanda Moore. In this year he also subdivided his land holding into 8 plots and sold one.

They had four children, two boys and two girls, the last girl Beryl was born in 1888, who, on her death in 1988 two months short of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, became the benefactor of the Blue Mountains Historical Society.

Over the years John mortgaged his land presumably to finance the schooling of his children all of whom went to private Catholic schools.

John built Tarella around 1890 as a holiday cottage for the family to have relief from the summer heat and to escape the smells that pervaded the air in Sydney.

The cottage stands on Cox's original road on a stretch constructed under the watch of Lt Thomas Hobby which Cox observed on his return, *'at the 29<sup>th</sup> mile is a very handsome long reach, quite strait, which I call, from the layer of it out, Hobby's Reach'*. (Hobby's Reach is the name used for the Research Centre of the Blue Mountains Historical Society).

The cottage is constructed of weatherboards under a pitched roof with the parents' bedroom, parlour, dining room and spare bedroom down stairs and two small bedrooms upstairs.

The kitchen was a separate building constructed of corrugated iron in which the caretaker and his wife lived, caring for chickens, house cow and fruit trees during the family's absence. Over the years, until 1920, there were alterations which joined the original kitchen to the house

The water supply for the house came from a 60 foot deep storage well that still exists on the property.

**Continued page 5**



**Tarella cottage as it now stands**

# VALLEY HEIGHTS LOCOMOTIVE DEPOT MUSEUM GETS HERITAGE GRANT

The Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum has received a grant of \$20,600 from the NSW Heritage Office to repair the windows at the rear of the Roundhouse.

The depot, completed in 1913, was built to service steam locomotives which provided extra power to enable the trains to climb the steep rise from Valley Heights to Katoomba.

The depot was closed in 1989 and vacated by the then State Rail Authority in 1993. The museum now looks after the site.

Most of the glass panes were broken before the window sashes were removed in the mid 90s because of termite damage to the surrounding jambs and sills.

The grant has enabled the museum to purchase the glass panes, timber and associated incidentals. The museum has to provide \$87,000 in labour.

The 95-year old sashes require many hours of patient repair work and cleaning before the panes are fitted and the sashes installed. This volunteer work is being carried out by the Museum's Retirees' Group — these fellows meet for one week every month (the week after the second Saturday), starting at 8am and finishing at 3pm.

This group is a big 'Men's Shed' where the members perform a valuable community service in a good humoured atmosphere.

Members work on tasks that suit their abilities and some come for the full week while others are able to be there for a day or two.

The museum is always looking for extra volunteers to help in the varied track work, machine operation, shops assistants).

For further information visit the website at <http://infoblueMountains.net.au/locodepot/> or phone 4751 4638.

*Article republished courtesy The Blue Mountains Gazette*



*From left to right) Restored steam tram trailer car 93B (c1879), NSWGR steam locomotive 5461 (c1916) and steam tram motor 103A (c1891) in front of the oldest steam locomotive Roundhouse in NSW (c1913). Photograph courtesy Andrew Tester*

## TARELLA COTTAGE

*Continued from page 4*



The family lived in a very imposing house called Yanko in Evans Street, Waverley and on John's death in 1918, Ada, his wife and the two daughters came to live permanently at Tarella. In 1922, Ada died and her elder daughter, Ida married.

Beryl, who was a qualified architect, designed several houses for Ida and her husband, later moving to live in a flat attached to one of these houses.

Tarella was then rented out to visitors who used the Wentworth Falls Golf and Recreation Club opposite Tarella for their meals. The club house was burnt down in the 1957 bushfires.

Beryl and her sister Ida, who was now widowed, were very early members of the Blue Mountains Historical Society formed in 1946 by the Blue Mountains City Council. In 1955 when the society was looking for premises Beryl transferred Tarella to the council.

This arrangement soon proved unsatisfactory and an agreement was made with the council to have the property transferred back to the sisters.

In 1968 Beryl had built at her own expense a building on the property to house a museum for the society. Beryl and Ida continued to live at Tarella for the rest of their independent lives, Ida dying in 1980 and Beryl in 1988.

Before her death, Beryl transferred the cottage and the remaining 3.5 acres of land to the society. To these sisters and especially the benevolence of Beryl, the society owes a great debt of gratitude. The society has been able to preserve an 1890s cottage, an example of a bygone age, for future generations.

*This article was contributed by Mrs Susan Warmbath, curator and former president, Blue Mountains Historical Society Inc. Images BMHS archives*

# EVERGLADES AT LEURA

## Modernism, Art Deco and pristine wilderness

By Angela le Sueur

Photography: Christopher Shain

*The National Trust-owned property, Everglades, at Leura is one of Australia's foremost cold climate gardens and arboreta. It is also an expression of a special partnership between the wealthy businessman, Henri Van de Velde, and the Danish horticulturalist and landscape designer, Paul Sorensen, whose legendary skills created many gardens of note in Leura and Katoomba.*

The creation of Everglades was as much a feat of engineering as a triumph of horticulture. There had been two successive houses, an orchard and a developed garden at Everglades before Van de Velde bought the property from Mrs Stonier.

It was extremely steep and rocky with thin, sandy soil – but Van de Velde saw the potential, and Sorensen knew how to achieve it. Steep slopes were levelled by the creation of a series of flat terraces which were underpinned by massive drystone walls hand hewn from rocks on the site.

Planting beds were hand dug to a depth of 600 to 900mm and filled with soil transported from the grotto pool and other excavations, enriched with humus. The Great Depression was in full swing and there was no shortage of labour; men were glad to be able to work.

Modern Movement and Art Deco influences with a backdrop of pristine wilderness combine to create the magic of the site.



**Massive drystone walls underpin the terraces**

The studio terrace with its rectilinear planes and cubist squash racquet courts building has been cited as one of the most significant pieces of Australian Modernist garden designs.

At the opposite end however, the eye is drawn to a brick edged 'window' which in spring is purple with cascading wisteria, framing the blue-green and russet hues of the

Jamison Valley and escarpments beyond.

Leading off the studio terrace is the garden theatre, carefully concealed behind trees and shrubs so that it becomes a special surprise. This was a technique much favoured by Sorensen, who concealed and revealed vistas and other features to layer the experience of the garden.



**Everglades House**

At Everglades the special character of each terrace 'room' is enjoyed on its own terms, as are the spectacular vistas beyond.

Flowers were originally planted as bright swathes of colour, but Sorensen also planned for the future – a time when his signature trees and shrubs would grow to overshadow the first mass planting beds.

Brightly coloured bulbs are still a feature of the upper terraces but, as you move down the slope, the emphasis changes – to rhododendrons and azaleas – and on the lower perimeters, to native plants. *Continued page 7*

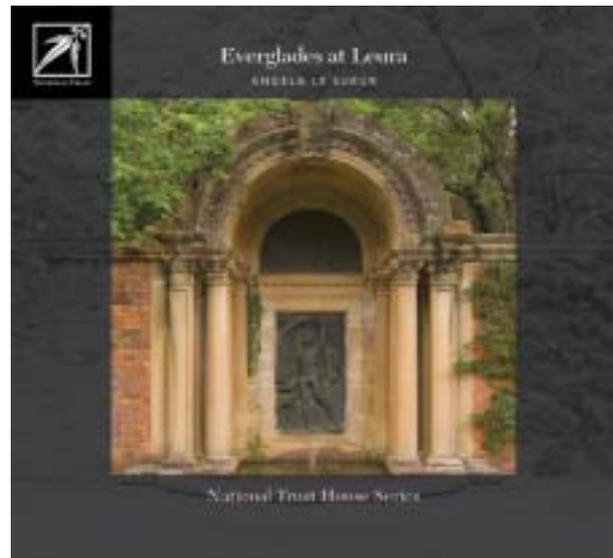
# The magic of Everglades

Many of the statues and artefacts which Van de Velde collected to embellish the gardens on his visits to Europe have long gone, however 'The Wrestler', a reproduction of a Roman bronze unearthed at Herculaneum, survives at the top of the steps from the Cherry to the Agapanthus Terrace. Whimsical wrought iron panels in the courtyard tell the story of a bad dog – one of Van de Velde's Sealyhams - and his punishment for chasing an Everglades peacock.

Although it looks hard-edged by today's standards, in the 1930s the house was the epitome of comfort and style with its large windows, sophisticated heating and Hollywood-style bathrooms.

A mix of Functionalism, Modernism, Mediterranean and Art Deco styles, it was a talking point of its time, featured extensively in the April 1938 issue of *The Australian Home Beautiful* and photographed by the legendary Harold Cazneaux.

Today, seventy years on, Everglades is a highlight of any visit to the Blue Mountains; a place for people of all ages to gather and enjoy its special events – or to wander and contemplate alone.



**Everglades at Leura by Angela le Sueur. The cover features the garden theatre with its arch, rescued from the demolished London Chartered Bank of Australia in Sydney**

For more information on Everglades, purchase the National Trust House Series book, *Everglades at Leura* from the property or from the National Trust direct; [www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au](http://www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au)

## SCENIC WORLD'S STAR AWARD

Scenic World has become the first business in the Blue Mountains to be accredited as a STAR workplace.

The award recognises Scenic World's commitment to engaging with its employees to build a sustainable business with high levels of satisfaction.

"We want to share with our visitors what makes Scenic World a special place and to do that we need a team of dedicated people who are continually striving to improve what we do," said human resources manager, Geoff Stodart in accepting the award.

Scenic World is a member of BMACHO.

"It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives.



It is the one that is most adaptable to change.".....  
*Charles Darwin.*

## DISPLAY SCREENS AVAILABLE TO BMACHO MEMBERS

Blue Mountains City Council has up to five sets of portable screens available for use by organisations such as members of BMACHO.

One set is the museum set and there are four others which council's environmental team has in store.

They are available for use by historical associations and museums in BMCC area (subject to availability).

A number of organisations have already borrowed them for displays.

The panels can be checked out on the Toucan website: <http://www.toucan.com.au/panels.html>

Dimensions are 1800mm high overall made up of 8 panels of approximately 770 x 900 mm.

Each panel will hold a poster of approximately 600 x 800mm. Colour: neutral blues.

Items can be attached to panels by Velcro or pins.

The screens come in a carry bag which fits fairly easily into a car boot

or back seat and can be easily set up on site.

Display screens can be booked by contacting Christine Jones on 4780 5609 or [cjones@bmcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cjones@bmcc.nsw.gov.au) or Janne Yardy on 4780 5448 [jyardy@bmcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jyardy@bmcc.nsw.gov.au)

There is no charge for use but they need to be booked in advance and picked up and returned in good condition to the Council HQ building in Katoomba.

## WINTER SOLSTICE AT EVERGLADES

Everglades will be holding a spooky story telling for children of all ages on Sunday, June 21.

Those who visit Everglades for the winter solstice are encouraged to dress up in the spookiest outfits.

For further information telephone Nick on 4784 1938 or [everglades@bigpond.com](mailto:everglades@bigpond.com)

# FAMILY HISTORY GROUP FINDS WORLD WAR 1 HERO BURIED AT LAWSON

The article published on this page is an edited version of an interesting article written by Blue Mountains Family History (BMFHS) member, Suzanne Voytas. The discovery came about following work by Suzanne and another member Lyn Tocher who discovered a neglected grave in Lawson Cemetery (pictured below) while working on a BMFHS project

Formed in 1986 BMFHS is a true family history society with interests back to our roots - in England, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, France, in fact anywhere in the world, how and where our ancestral families lived and worked and where they travelled. BMFHS has a close association with the local studies librarians of BMCC - but the main focus is facilitating the family history research needs of the local residents, not local studies.

Members of Blue Mountains Family History Society (BMHS) are helping the descendants of a World War 1 hero to piece together the history of their ancestor buried at Lawson.

In June 2008, Lynne Tocher and Suzanne Voytas were recording and checking information on headstones at the Lawson Cemetery as part of the project to update the Blue Mountains Family History Society's transcripts for all Blue Mountains cemeteries.

During this work they came across a very neglected grave. The headstone stated the person was an ANZAC. The researchers felt that if this claim was correct, then the person should be entitled to the AIF insignia on his headstone.

Firstly they needed to prove the person named was indeed an Anzac, and so began the search for the story of Henry James Hunter, who died at Linden in November 16, 1923.

Using the National Archives of Australia's website, a copy of his enlistment papers, which included his medical and promotions history, was obtained. Together with other details from the AIF and AWM websites it was revealed that: Henry James Hunter voluntarily enlisted September 24, 1914 and stated he was 43 years 9 months. His enlistment number was 1066 assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, C Company.

He left Australia on board Transport A19 *Afric* on October, 18 1914. Maybe he didn't need basic training as he was a member of the Victorian Rifle Club!

His AIF file revealed he was at Gallipoli on April 25, 1915, was

evacuated from Lone Pine on August 16, 1915, and subsequently evacuated to hospital in England. He rejoined his unit in December 1915.

In May 1916 he was serving with the 1st Anzac Entrenching Battalion seeing service at the Somme and battlefields near Ypres.

During his service Hunter was promoted a number of times in the field. In July 1915 he was promoted to corporal, with various other promotions until December 1917 when he was promoted to T/RSM (Temporary Regimental Sergeant Major). This reverted back to corporal on his discharge.

On November 6, 1917 he was recommended for the Meritorious Service Medal, the citation read – *For devotion to duty and disregard of personal safety during intermittent shelling of Bapaume for two months and energetic meritorious service in the organization of a) Brickfields area. b) Bapaume area. c) Blequin area. d) Reinforcement Camps area. His conduct and bearing in A.I.F. since September 1914 has set a fine example.* Signed by E M Waters, 2<sup>nd</sup> Col, CO 1<sup>st</sup> Anzac Entrenchment Battalion.

In February 1918 Hunter applied for a discharge for personal reasons.

He was married and had two children – Eileen and Keith. His wife and children were living at Neutral Bay, NSW together with his elderly mother.

He was discharged on June 6, 1918

There is no living memory of Henry James Hunter being discussed within the family.

Having found his history and obtaining the family's permission to proceed, Lyn Tocher and Susanne Voyta thought it would only be a matter of applying to the appropriate department and the insignia would be granted. Not so.

The guidelines for receiving the AIF insignia state that the serviceman must have died from war related causes. Henry James' death certificate states the cause of death was *Cardiac Valvular Degeneration, Atheroma and Aneurysmal Dilatation of the Aorta.*

At present there is no clear cut evidence to link his cause of death to his war service and the medical problems he suffered while on active duty even though he died within 5 years of being discharged.

However, an application has been lodged with Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA), stating the reasons for the request on behalf of the family.

*Continued page 9*



# Lithgow State Coal Mine a pictorial history.....

The book *Lithgow State Coal Mine a pictorial history* was launched at the Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park on Wednesday 6 May 2009 by Neville Castle, Mayor of Lithgow.

In launching the book Neville Castle noted that the Lithgow State Coal Mine operated from 1916 to 1964.

It was the largest coal mine on the Western Coalfield and the first coal mine established by the New South Wales Government. At the height of production in 1930 the mine employed 734 men.

This book was written to provide an overview of the story of the Lithgow State Coal Mine and to support interpretation at the State Mine Museum.

It draws on records held by the museum and memories of former workers to weave stories of the place.

When speaking at the launch the author Ray Christison stated that his intention in writing it was to create a record that was engaging and accessible to the widest possible audience.

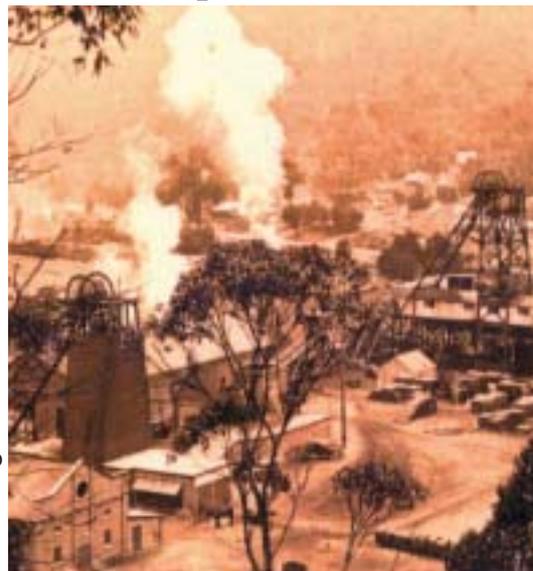
He said that: 'As much as possible I have endeavoured to represent the story of the mine through the stories of individuals who worked there.'

Ray also recognized the many people who had contributed to the development of the book, including museum volunteers, staff of the Lithgow Library Learning Centre and the many former miners who had contributed photographs and stories. He also gave special thanks to Dick Austen and Joe Butta who most generously sponsored the first print run.

The book was printed by Industrial Printing in Lithgow.

It is available through the Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park at a price of \$29.95 per copy. Resellers may purchase orders of five books or more at the discounted price of \$21.00. Order forms can be downloaded from [www.statemine.org.au](http://www.statemine.org.au)

*'.....stories of individuals who worked there.'*



## HERO BURIED AT LAWSON

*Continued from page 8*

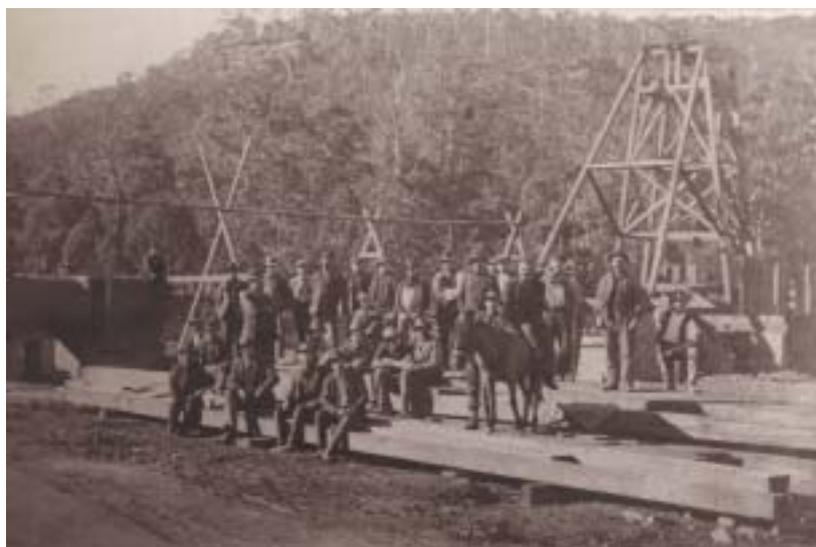
The one hope is that, as he applied for a war service pension just before he died and if his wife did receive a war widow's pension, it means that his medical condition was recognised as war related.

The Springwood RSL sub-branch president, Mr Joe Elkusck, has indicated that if the insignia is granted, they will be prepared to rededicate the grave, with the Last Post and the Ode being recited with the association's chaplain.

As for the reasons he died in Linden, away from his immediate family and no oral history of him through the generations will possible remain a mystery but the family have decided to try and piece the puzzle together.

However, it is not hard to imagine the horrors of war that the men were subjected to, so returning to civilian life would be difficult.

Many would have physical wounds but just as many would have been broken psychologically.



**An image from the book showing the construction crew posed in front of the No.1 or upcast shaft at the State Mine site in 1917.**

# BLUE MOUNTAINS VINTAGE FASHION COLLECTION WITHOUT EQUAL

One of the more unusual cultural heritage collections in the Blue Mountains comprises 3500 items of Victorian and Edwardian clothing and accessories, known as the Darnell Collection.

In 2003, Blue Mountains resident, Charlotte Smith was bequeathed a vast vintage clothing collection belonging to her godmother, Doris Darnell, a Quaker from Pennsylvania, USA.

For over seventy years, Mrs. Darnell accepted family heirlooms given to her 'in love and in trust' by people wanting to ensure the garment and their story lived on. Her collection grew along with her international reputation as a collector and preserver of fine garments and accessories.

Initially, Charlotte had no immediate plans about what she would do with the collection, but upon opening the 70 boxes she realised she had inherited not only a unique collection recording 200 years of social history, but she also had a fashion resource unequalled in Australia.

"I opened the boxes of exquisite treasures and held in my hands the precious clothing worn by Victorian and Edwardian ladies, Flappers of the 1920s and ladies of the 1950s cocktail set.



*Cotton day dress 1865*

"There were dresses of silk, wool, printed cotton, linen, velvet and lace by famous and influential designers who helped revolutionise fashion to adapt to the changing role of women in society. Designers like Lucile, Madeline Vionnet, Gabrielle Chanel, Christian Dior, Jean Muir and James Galanos," recalls Charlotte.

She found cocktail and debutante dresses, wedding gowns, swimsuits, hats, handbags, shoes and gloves, undergarments including rare cage crinolines and bustles, outerwear and exquisite fans among an array of wardrobe necessities. Most intriguingly, many of the pieces are well documented with marvellous light hearted anecdotes about the people who wore them and the customs and foibles of their time. (HarperCollins Australia is producing a book about the collection and these wonderful stories. The book will be published in November this year.

In the past five years, The Darnell Collection has grown significantly. It now totals over 5000 items. Added to the long list of designers recently acquired are Hardy Amies, Norman Hartnell, Zandra Rhodes and Vivienne Westwood from England, Christobel Balenciaga from Spain, Ceil Chapman from America and Gianni Versace from Italy. The collection represents 27 different countries, given by 287 donors. A diverse selection of garments and accessories from Australia is an important addition to the collection.

Over the past five years, The Darnell Collection has been displayed at Woodford Academy, the QVB in Sydney, at Bendigo Regional Gallery in Victoria, at the Sydney Royal Easter Show and in Lithgow, Bathurst, Cowra, Armidale, Parkes and Orange. It has also been featured twice on ABC television's program Collectors.

Early last year, ESMOD Australia, a French fashion school founded in Paris in 1841, and The Darnell Collection joined forces. ESMOD is now one of only two schools in the world with their own fashion archive and their own museum. (F.I.T. in



*Red silk trousseau dress, 1884*

NYC is the other). Students, teachers, researchers and historians can access the collection privately while the general public is welcome to view changing exhibitions in The Fashion Gallery, located in the lobby. Five exhibitions a year will showcase the glamour and upheaval of fashion over the past 200 years.

The collection owned by The Darnell Collection Pty Ltd., Blackheath is now permanently displayed at ESMOD Australia, 2 Short Street Surrey Hills 2010



*Charlotte Smith beside a 1960s silk Murano glass bead Italian mini dress*

# Unique Darwiniana in the Blue Mountains

This is the second article in a series marking the bicentenary of Charles Darwin's birth.

Charles Darwin published many books; most people can name one; most biologists can name five or more. The majority of his books were published by John Murray and are instantly recognisable by their green blind stamped boards and gilt decorated spines, to say nothing of their dark, almost black endpapers.

One first edition, however, had covers of plum coloured cloth, an innovation never repeated, but one which sends bibliophiles into raptures. (*Fertilisation of Orchids*, May 15, 1862).

An interesting piece of Darwiniana, scarcely known, is his contribution to *A Manual of Scientific Enquiry, prepared for the Use of Her Majesty's Navy and adapted for Travellers in General*, published by John Murray in 1849 in appropriate sea-green cloth with a gilt anchor on the outer cover (Fig 1).

Contributors included, as well as Darwin: Herschel (Meteorology), Owen (Zoology) and Hooker (Botany). Herschel was the editor as well as contributor; Owen wrote *Fossil Mammalia* in *The Zoology of the Voyage of HMS Beagle* that Darwin edited in 1838. Hooker later wrote *On the Flora of Australia* in *The Botany of the Antarctic Voyage of HM Discovery Ships Erebus & Terror* which was published in that fateful year 1859.

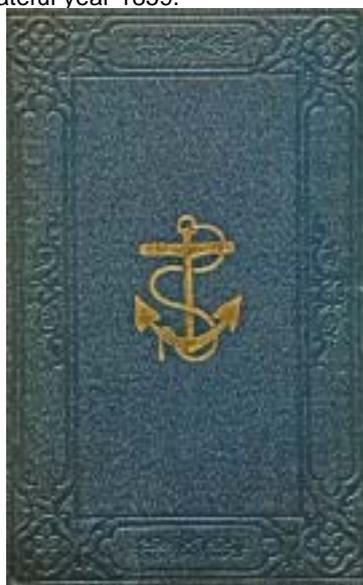


Fig.1

1859 was, of course, the year of publication of *On the Origin of Species* which was far outsold by Samuel Smiles' *Self Help*, that appeared in the same year. 'How to' books were popular even then!

The first issue of the first edition of *A Manual of Scientific Enquiry* has a transposition of Darwin's text caused by the typesetter misplacing some of Darwin's hand written text. Corrected in later issues, the article gives practical advice: number specimens and put a dot after the number if it is 6 or 9 to avoid confusion; collect suites of specimens rather than individual pieces to help elucidate strata; label separately every fossil, wrap it in paper and mark its location on the outside and make accurate sectional diagrams. Darwin ends by writing that by following the advice the reader.... 'will, even if without any previous knowledge, in a short time infallibly become a good geologist, and as certainly will he enjoy the high satisfaction of contributing to the perfection of the history of this wonderful world'.

Charles Darwin's family were writers. Erasmus Darwin, Charles's grandfather had written of Sydney in his *The Botanic Garden* (see next column).

He was inspired by Josiah Wedgwood's medallion that was made from the clay of Sydney Harbour collected by Sir Joseph Banks.

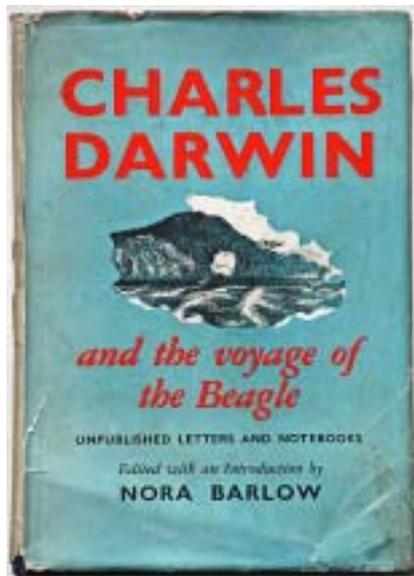


Fig.2

## VISIT OF HOPE TO SIDNEY COVE, NEAR BOTANY BAY

*Where Sydney Cove her lucid bosom swells,  
And with wide arms the indignant storm repels;  
High on a rock amid the troubled air  
Hope stood sublime, and waved her golden hair;  
Calm'd with her rosy smile the tossing deep,  
And with sweet accents charm'd the winds to sleep;  
To each wild plain she stretch'd her snowy hand,  
High-waving wood, and sea-encircled strand.  
"Hear me," she cried, "ye rising realms record  
Time's opening scenes, and Truth's prophetic word.  
There shall broad streets their stately walls extend,  
The circus widen, and the crescent bend;  
There, ray'd from cities o'er the cultured land,  
Shall bright canals, and solid roads expand.  
There the proud arch, colossus-like, bestride  
Yon glittering streams, and bound the chafing tide;  
Embellish'd villas crown the landscape-scene,  
Farms wave with gold, and orchards blush between.  
There shall tall spires, and dome-capt towers ascend,  
And piers and quays their massy structures blend;  
While with each breeze approaching vessels glide,  
And northern treasures dance on every tide!"  
Then ceased the nymph-tumultuous echoes roar,  
And Joy's loud voice was heard from shore to shore  
Her graceful steps descending press'd the plain,  
And Peace, and Art, and Labour, join'd her train.*

Editor's note: Spelling and punctuation as written and published in the 19th century.

Continued page 12

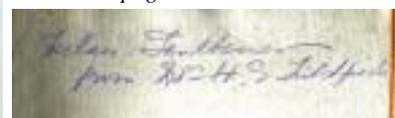


Fig. 3

# DARWINIANA

*Continued from page 11*

Coincidentally, Charles' wife, Emma was Wedgwood's granddaughter.

Charles' second son, Francis, assembled five volumes of his father's life and letters.

They were published in 1887-1903. Charles' granddaughter, Nora, wrote an account of the voyage of the *Beagle* (Fig 2). It was published in 1945 and includes letters and some material hitherto unpublished from Darwin's notebooks.

Charles' fourth daughter, Henrietta Emma, wrote a two volume account of her mother which reveals much about the Darwin's day-to-day life. It also includes letters from Charles to his wife. It was printed by Cambridge Press though privately published in blue cloth in 1904 in a run of 250 copies. A few copies were elaborately bound for presentation (Fig 4).



Fig.4

Fig. 1 The outer cover of *Charles Darwin and the voyage of the Beagle* in which Darwin wrote a chapter on geology.

Fig. 2 This book was written by Darwin's granddaughter, Nora Barlow.

Fig.3 Darwin's daughter's (Mrs Litchfield) handwriting donating her book about her mother to an untraced recipient - any suggestions as to the identity gratefully received!

Fig.4 An elaborately bound volume written by Darwin's daughter about his wife Emma.

**Contributed by Dr Peter Stanbury, OAM a committee member of BMACHO and board member UMAC (International Committee for University Museums)**

# Mountains police sent to quell Maori uprising

The first police to be stationed in the Blue Mountains were detachments of the Military Mounted Police Force.

This force, of a semi-military character, was created by Governor Brisbane in 1825 and operated until 1850 for the purposes of apprehending marauding convicts who had escaped to the bush as well as protecting travellers on the roads that radiated from Sydney to the widely scattered settlements.

It was made up of soldiers seconded from the British regiments stationed in New South Wales who served usually only for a few years until their units ended their tour of duty. While the force was controlled by the civil authorities the police remained under military discipline.

In 1846, as a result of Maori uprisings in New Zealand, Earl Grey, Secretary of State for the Colonies issued a directive sending "the whole of the disposable force [in NSW] to Wellington [New Zealand]."

He observed that the colony "may be regarded as being perfectly safe, for the present at least, from any attack from a Foreign enemy; there are no native tribes capable of engaging in serious hostilities with Colonists; and the convict establishment is now reduced so low, while so great an increase has taken place in the numbers of the free population, that there is no longer the necessity which some years ago existed for maintaining a considerable Military Force to guard against the risk of an attempt to rise on the part of the convicts".

He added: "Under these circumstances, there is no part of Her Majesty's Dominions in which there is less occasion for a large body of troops.

Accordingly, I find that, with the exception of those at Sydney, the Troops now serving in New South Wales are broken up into small

detachments, and obviously performing duties more analogous to those of a Police Corps than of a part of Her Majesty's regular Army; but these are duties which the heavy demands upon the services of British Army do not admit that it should be called upon any longer to undertake.

Her Majesty's confidential servants will consider it their duty to take care that Her Naval and Military Forces shall afford efficient protection from the attacks of any Foreign enemy to so important a part of Her Dominions as New South Wales; but for the maintenance of internal order and tranquillity, it is only reasonable that the Colonists should themselves be called upon to provide by the formation of an adequate force of Police, or if necessary, of Militia...."[Despatch dated 24 November 1846 vide Historical Records of Australia Vol. XXV p.264]

By this time the only military presence between the Nepean and Cox's Rivers was the detachment at the Blackheath Stockade.

The consequences of Grey's decision was to divert the colonial government's lingering reliance on the military as an arm of law enforcement to enhancing the several civilian police forces already serving the colony.

It was not until 1870 that the British Army units left Australia -- a protracted departure despite Grey's observations, due no doubt to the fears of Russian invasion during the Crimean War of 1854-56 and the requirements from the ongoing Maori Wars through the 1860s.

***This article is an extract from Peter Chinn's "The Thin Red and Blue Lines," a history of the military and police presence in the Blue Mountains 1814-2005, published by the Springwood Historical Society Inc.***

***Peter Chinn is currently the society's president.***

# Australia's first industrial site

There may be no archaeological relics such as a crumbling brick smoke stack, rusting industrial machinery or even remnants of toxic waste left in the ground, but the river bank on the estuary, a short distance upstream from where the holiday township of Cooktown, Queensland now stands, must surely be the place of Australia's first industrial site.



*Captain James Cook as painted by John Webber in 1782*

It was here that Cook after running aground on a coral reef, beached the *Endeavour* to repair the damage to his ship.

Professor Geoffrey Blainey in his book *Sea of Dangers* writing about James Cook's voyage along the east coast of Australia in 1770 suggests, 'it was here arose a ship-building yard, along with a timber workshop and blacksmith's forge.'

The *Endeavour* 'was moved to the chosen position by the use of ropes and by sheer physical strength of the men working the capstan.'

'Near the mangrove bushes she lay, her bow on the bank and her stern sloping well into the water.

'Melted iron was converted into iron nails, of which thousands and thousands were needed for repairs. Sailmakers were active, their work spread out in front of them.

'The carpenters were soon at work replacing the damaged timbers, and it was a favourable time to make repairs to the rigging. Seamen were scraping the ship's bottom to remove the marine life that had clung to it.'

The first industrial activity in Australia by Europeans occurred between June 17 and August 3, 1770. It was during this period that Australia's most well known animal name, the kangaroo (kangaroo) was interpreted by Joseph Banks.

## BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

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**THE ORGANISATION** Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Organisations Inc. (BMACHO) was established in April 2006 following a unanimous response to a proposal from Prof. Barrie Reynolds at the 2004 Blue Mountains Local History Conference which sought from Blue Mountains City Council the creation of a cultural heritage strategy for the city.

BMACHO in its constitution uses the definition: "Cultural heritage is all aspects of life of the peoples of the Blue Mountains which was later changed to cover Lithgow and the villages along the Bell's Line of Roads. It therefore involves the recording, preserving and interpreting of information in whatever form: documents, objects, recorded memories as well as buildings and sites."

The objectives of the organisation are

- i. To raise public consciousness of the value of cultural heritage.
- ii. To encourage and assist cultural heritage activities of member organisations.
- iii. To initiate and support cultural heritage activities not already covered by member organisations.

One of the aims of BMACHO is to bring the various bodies into closer contact, to encourage them to work more closely together and to provide a combined voice on matters of importance within the heritage sector.

**MEMBERSHIP** The following organisations are members of BMACHO: Blue Mountains City Library, Blue Mountains Historical Society Inc., Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc., Blue Mountains Tourism Limited, Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute, Cudgegong Museums Group, Friends of Everglades, Friends of Norman Lindsay Gallery, Glenbrook & District Historical Society, Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society Inc, Lilianfels Blue Mountains Resort, Lithgow Mining Museum, Lithgow Regional Library – Local Studies, Lithgow Small Arms Factory Museum, Mid Western Regional Council Library, Mt Tomah Botanic Gardens, Mt Victoria and District Historical Society Inc., Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine History Society (including Turkish Bath Museum), Mudgee Historical Society, Mudgee Regional Library, National Trust of Australia (NSW) - Blue Mountains Branch (including Woodford Academy), National Trust of Australia (NSW) - Lithgow Branch), Scenic World – Blue Mountains Limited, Springwood & District Historical Society Inc., Springwood Historians, Two Centuries of Elegance, Valley Heights Locomotive Depot and Museum, Zig Zag Railway. The following are individual members: Ms Wendy Carlson, Ray Christison, Ms Pamela Hubert, Associate Professor Ian Jack, John Leary OAM, John Low, Professor Barrie Reynolds, and Dr Peter Stanbury OAM.

**COMMITTEE** The committee for 2009-10 is: John Leary, (president) Ian Jack (vice president), Barrie Reynolds (secretary), Jean Arthur, Ray Christison, Lyn Fowler, Doug Knowles, Kathie McMahon and Dick Morony (public officer), Peter Stanbury.

**AFFILIATIONS** BMACHO is a member of the Royal Australian Historical Society Inc.

**HERITAGE** is BMACHO's official newsletter.