

HERITAGE

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OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS

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Norman Lindsay and the 'Magic Pudding'



. *The Magic Pudding* characters, Bunyip Bluegum, Bill Barnacle, the Magic Pudding and Sam Sawnoff

ARTICLE BY HELEN GLAD

Norman Lindsay is the author of one of Australia's best-loved stories, 'The Magic Pudding', however his talent was not limited to writing for children. His early career started at the *Bulletin* where he was principal cartoonist; he also wrote novels and produced a torrent of pen drawings, etchings, watercolours and oil paintings. Lindsay's story is told by his grand daughter, Helen Glad, who was a constant visitor at 'Springwood', the house her grandparents established in the Blue Mountains.

Norman Lindsay wrote his classic Australian children's story *The Magic Pudding* in 1918. Since then generations of Australian children have been reading the adventures of Albert, Bunyip Bluegum, Sam Sawnoff, Bill Barnacle and the Puddin' thieves.

Lindsay had a wager that children were more interested in reading about food than fairies - and it is a bet that Lindsay clearly won. Albert, the gravy-voiced Pudding, has the extraordinary talent of never ending as well as transforming into all sorts of delicious sweet and savoury treats.

Albert's ability to be thoroughly rude as well as escaping at the drop of a basin has made him a hero for many a young boy.

Adventure is as important as food in *The Magic Pudding* with the Puddin' owners wandering the long bush tracks of Australia - either seeking or fleeing from Puddin' Thieves. There are archetypal characters, reminiscent of Lawson who inhabit a bush landscape of crackling gum leaves and bright skies. Perhaps we now think of these as stereotypes of the Australian male character, but then they were the norm and the bush somehow seemed a lot closer to the city.

And let us not forget that the Pudding began its long steaming life at a time of the worst devastation the world had known.

Millions of young men were dying in the mud and filth of a war very distant from the sun and blue sky of home. Heroes were genuinely forged in that conflict, and mateship was not an abstract emotion but often a means of survival.

The origin of the Magic Pudding can be traced to Lindsay's childhood.

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From the president's pen.....

GETTYSBURG ADDRESS ETHIC NEEDED FOR AUSTRALIA'S CULTURAL HERITAGE

When Abraham Lincoln delivered his Gettysburg Address which encapsulated the words "government of the people, by the people, for the people", he did so on a battlefield.

While no one wants to emulate the battlefields of the American Civil War, which brought rise to Lincoln's address, there is a need for Australians to go on to a war footing with government at all levels when it comes to our cultural heritage.

For too long successive governments in this country have ignored the Lincoln ethic of those immortal words and instead have pandered to ideology and lobby groups which serve only their own narrow needs often based on making a "big buck".

The heritage sector has in the past achieved some success by its quiet and thoughtful approach, but far more could perhaps have been accomplished had the causes been more widely articulated, bringing on board the community at large.

With some 14 declared world heritage sites in Australia, intent has been declared, without real funding.

Research facilities and museums

operate on shoestring budgets. Heritage buildings crumble into dust, priceless artefacts have no suitable accommodation, volumes of archive material disintegrate or fall victim to mites or mould. Funding for our maritime and industrial heritage is a disgrace.

Be it the unique village of Hartley, the little-known farm relic of 'Browntown', the etchings of Norman Lindsay or the surveyor's notes and maps of the surveyor George William Evans which made feasible the route taken by William Cox who constructed the great western road from Emu Plains to Bathurst two centuries ago, all are part of our cultural heritage and deserve to attract better funding for conservation, restoration, housing and management.

Although bodies such as the RAHS and National Trust have been keeping heritage prominently before our politicians, government needs to understand the importance of our cultural heritage and take advice from the heritage sector

The clarion call has come with the NSW government announcement earlier this year giving the minister for planning unfettered power in relation to heritage properties. In so doing it has weakened the influence of heritage organisations.

BMACHO has embarked on a strategy for ensuring a better understanding of the treatment of cultural heritage by government at all levels and within the community at large.

One of the ways of grabbing the attention of decision-makers is by face to face dialogue. But unrepresented opinion has little effect on politicians.

To ensure the best impression on politicians such as the shadow minister who will address a public meeting organised by BMACHO on September 25, the largest possible attendance will help to make at least the alternative government in this state realise that people are concerned about heritage issues. BMACHO will create other opportunities to express community concern to politicians of all persuasions.

Those interested in our heritage are urged to encourage others to attend the meeting at Wentworth Falls, for if we fail to make government better understand the heritage sector's concerns then the war will be lost. A society which ignores its heritage does so at peril to future generations.

**John Leary, OAM - president,
Blue Mountains Association of
Cultural Heritage Organisations**

KEEPING INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES BEFORE MEMBERS

BMACHO's committee is concerned that ordinary society members are not being made aware of information regularly passed down to organisations.

BMACHO's secretary regularly communicates information, on decisions and objectives discussed at committee meetings, the newsletter HERITAGE is published every two months, individual members of the executive regularly communicate with contact persons for all association members and visit affiliated societies.

It is now proposed that secretary Barrie Reynolds will e-mail a brief report of the committee's monthly meeting to each society. The report will outline what work has been completed or is in train.

It is requested that this brief report be transmitted to individual society members through newsletters and/ or placing it on notice boards.

The committee is also urging individual societies to include in their AGM agendas, space for their

appointed BMACHO representative to report on BMACHO activities.

Meantime, the committee has decided to have a mid-year general meeting to give the opportunity for BMACHO committee members to hear a progress report and for members to raise any matters of concern.

The next mid-year meeting will be on Saturday, November 21 at a venue and time to be advised.

SHADOW MINISTER TO DISCUSS HERITAGE ISSUES WITH BMACHO

The NSW coalition spokesman for heritage, the Hon Catherine Cusack, MLC, B Ec has accepted BMACHO's invitation to discuss heritage issues at a meeting later this month.

Representatives from BMACHO affiliated organisation have been invited to participate in the meeting and others interested in heritage will be welcome to attend.

BMACHO has embarked on a program to better inform the community and government about the need for more adequate government funding for the preservation and conservation of our cultural heritage.

As part of this strategy, meetings are to be held with leading politicians from all political parties. The objective of these meetings is to discuss with each political party their heritage policies and hopefully have some input into future policies.

At the first of these meetings the guest speaker will be NSW Shadow



Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability, and Liberal spokesperson for Heritage, The Hon. Catherine Cusack, B Ec, MLC.

Speaking in opposition to the Heritage Amendment Bill 2009, the shadow minister, said: "the bill is part of a long war against our state's heritage. "The independence of the State Heritage Council under a Coalition is offering the people of NSW a renaissance in heritage protection.

"Our policy will establish important structural separation between the Heritage Council and the Minister for Planning."

Catherine Cusack joined the National Trust in 1982 and has been active in heritage campaigns over many years, including the Wintergarden at Rose Bay, the anti-monorail rallies, the Royal Hospital for Women, the Florence Bartley Library in Kings Cross, the "Save White City" campaign to preserve the historic centre courts and the continuing effort to preserve the Yasmar Estate at Haberfield.

Catherine was elected to the NSW Legislative Council in 2003 and immediately appointed to Shadow Cabinet as Shadow Minister for Juvenile Justice and Shadow Minister for Women.

In 2007 she was appointed Shadow Minister for Fair Trading and recently Shadow Minister for

Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability and is the Coalition's spokesperson for Heritage

The meeting will to be held at the Grand View Hotel, Wentworth Falls commencing at 10am on Friday, September 25, 2009.

Morning tea will be served from 9.45am and a light buffet lunch (sandwiches, coffee etc) will be available at the conclusion of the meeting expected to be at 12 noon.

To cover the cost of the meeting room, morning tea and luncheon, a charge of \$18 per person for members of societies affiliated with BMACHO or \$25 for non-members will be charged.

Bookings are essential and cheques payable to BMACHO should be mailed to Prof. Barrie Reynolds at 40 Hume Avenue, Wentworth Falls 2781.

For further information contact John Leary at johnnanette@optusnet.com.au or Barrie Reynolds at barrie.r@bigpond.com.net.au

The making of our nation

National Trust Heritage Festival 2010's theme will be *'The making of our nation'*, recognising Lachlan Macquarie's swearing in as the 5th governor of NSW 200 years ago.

Historical societies and community groups can register free of charge, their own events and take advantage of national promotion of the festival now in its 30th year.

The festival runs between April 9 and 24, 2010 and last year included over 400 community hosted events.

To register local events, complete the online form at www.nationaltrust.com.au/events/festival/registration2010 by Friday, November 13 or telephone Natalie Goss on (02) 9258 0181. Suggestions for events include talks/lectures, exhibitions and historical displays, tours, educational competitions, open days etc.

RAHS GRANT FOR BMACHO

The Royal Australian Historical Society has advised BMACHO it has been successful in a bid for a grant towards the cost of producing the Journal of Blue Mountains History. The RAHS has made a grant of \$850.

Peter Rickwood has volunteered to be the editor of the Journal.

He will be assisted by an editorial board consisting of John Leary, Ian Jack, Peter Stanbury, Barrie Reynolds and Dr. Carol Liston of the University of Western Sydney.

The Webmaster will be Peter Hughes, who created BMACHO's Website.

Publication of the Journal is planned for mid-2010

Lindsay brushed away the ‘wowers’

Continued from page 1

To a boy growing up in the gold mining town of Creswick, Victoria, the lure of adventures on the high seas in sailing ships must have been appealing. This early fascination with the sea would later translate into paintings of swashbuckling pirates and the ship models made by Lindsay. The roistering and rollicking adventures of the pudding begin when Bill Barnacle and Sam Sawnoon become the Pudding's owners by stealing Albert and doing away with the cook, Curry n Rice. This action takes place on an iceberg after the *Saltjunk Sarah* is shipwrecked. Once back on dry land the old salts proceed to find adventure after adventure.

In 1918 Angus and Robertson published *The Magic Pudding* at an issue price of 1 guinea - a price Lindsay felt too high for young people. At that time Norman Lindsay was renowned as the pre-eminent black and white artist for *The Bulletin*. He was also the creator of art full of nudes which to many people showed his moral decrepitude.

Lindsay brushed aside any criticism - he was far too busy an artist to be concerned about the ‘wowers’. That he was also the creator of a book which captured the imagination of children must have raised the eyebrows of many and caused concern in some circles.

Lindsay was an extraordinarily prolific artist, working in diverse mediums. His black and white art included cartoons for *The Bulletin* for over fifty years, completing his last in 1956. His pen and ink drawings were keenly sought by institutions and private collectors.

His etchings were also eagerly sought and his output in this most difficult and taxing of print mediums was prodigious. He entrusted the printing of his plates to his wife Rose, who became a master printer essential to the high quality of his etchings. In all they produced over 370 different etched images. Rose not only printed the etchings but handled their sales throughout the world.

His water-colour and oil paintings remain as popular as they ever were

with artlovers. For some Lindsay's classical themes have little connection with a modern Australia and they find the notion of satyrs pursuing nymphs in a bluegum Arcadia somewhat incongruous.

However, as an advocate for a vigorous Australian artistic culture - so long as it included no modernists - Lindsay's contribution cannot be ignored. The subject of his art saw him identified with the freeing of attitudes which was still overshadowed by the tight moral corsets of Victorian society.

Lindsay was also the author of thirteen novels, many of which he illustrated. His support of many young writers and poets was crucial to their future successes.

He was a prolific writer of articles and wrote some seven non-fiction books. Books of his art were usually beautifully produced volumes which have become collector's items.

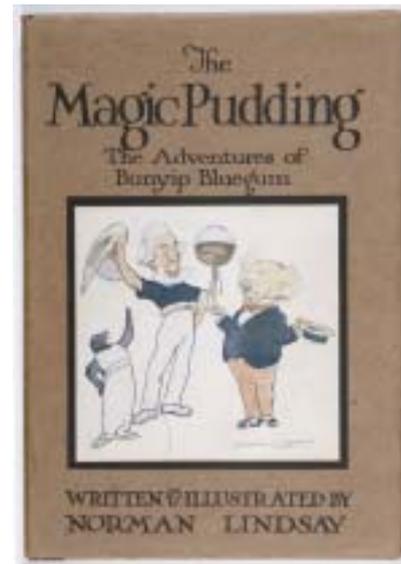
To consider Lindsay having any spare time after the constant making of art seems impossible.

But he relaxed by building fine ship models and decorating the grounds of his house at Springwood with sculptures of nymphs, fauns and satyrs fashioned from cement. The house and grounds of his home, which are visited annually by thousands of visitors, are now run by the National Trust of Australia (NSW).

Perhaps Lindsay viewed himself a little like Albert - the more he made the more you got. Throughout his long life he remained enthusiastically creating art which still captures our imagination.

The Magic Pudding is now over 90 years old. In that time the recipe has changed little. Occasionally it is published in Spanish, French, Portuguese and even Japanese. Other variations to the recipe include radio adaptations, serialisation in school magazines and marionette and rod puppets.

The Magic Pudding has become part of the Australian vernacular - with everything from the economy to Sydney real estate being described as “a magic pudding”.



Lindsay would have been pleased knowing that he baked an artistic pudding big enough for everyone to enjoy and to inspire others further creations.

BMACHO gratefully acknowledges the efforts of Amanda Llewellyn, manager of the Norman Lindsay Gallery and Museum who arranged for the reproduction of this article by Helen Glad and for approval to reprint the drawings on this and page 1. Norman Lindsay Gallery and Museum is a member of BMACHO

LITHGOW'S CRIMES SCANDALS, & CORRUPTION

The *Scandals, Crime and Corruption* exhibition being staged in the Lithgow Library Learning Centre until September 30 has already attracted considerable interest.

The exhibition features historic photographs, newspaper articles and artefacts of local interest, including convict and Cold War material related to the gaol, migrant hostel and landholdings in Lithgow.

Open Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm and on Saturdays from 9am to 12 noon admission is free. For further details

www.learningcentre.lithgow.com

WIELDING THE WILLOW

An historical reflection by John Low

Recently, in the peaceful late hours of the evening while listening to the ABC coverage of the current Test series between Australia and England, I have found myself thinking about the old house in Springwood in which, for almost all of 20 years, I spent my working life.

'Braemar' is one of Springwood's finest surviving 19th century buildings and an important part of the town's architectural heritage.

Built in 1892 by Scottish immigrant and successful Sydney businessman James Hunter Lawson, it was restored as an Australian Bicentennial project and opened as a public art gallery and local history centre in 1988.

As local studies librarian my office was in the front right-hand room, once a drawing room according to the original plans.

Though I became very familiar with the building over a long period of time, I tried not to take it for granted. It was indeed a pleasant place to work and as I learnt the



'Braemar' in the 1890s courtesy the Blue Mountains City Library's Local Studies Collection.

details of its history I enjoyed a growing familiarity with the people who had occupied its rooms and given them life.

Erected initially as a private residence, the Lawson family eventually built several neighbouring homes and James Hunter and his wife Emma moved next door sometime in the mid 1890s.

'Braemar' was then leased and subsequently experienced a variety of uses, including hospital, private home, doctor's surgery and guesthouse.

There was one tenant however who, though residing there only briefly, particularly attracted my attention.

Sometimes when work got a bit tiresome, I would sit at my desk and reflect on the possibility that this man who had participated in events at a crucial moment in our sporting history might have relaxed in this very room, looking out at his garden and beyond the white picket fence to the far less regular and noisy traffic passing along the Western Road.

The man I am referring to was Thomas William Garrett (1858 - 1943), one of our early Test cricketers who had taken part in the metaphorical 'cremation' of English cricket at The Oval in August 1882.

It was about sixteen years later that Garrett, his wife Helen and their family of three girls and four boys arrived in Springwood, probably during the first half of 1898 after his retirement from first-class cricket. In August of that year the *Nepean Times* recorded his election as a vice-president of the Springwood Cricket Club.

Thomas Garrett was born in Wollongong on July 26, 1858, the son of a politician and newspaper proprietor.



In this lovely old photograph of the Australian team, from the collection of the Mitchell Library in Sydney, Garrett is seated fourth from the left in the front row.

WIELDING THE WILLOW

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Educated at Newington College, he later studied law and was admitted as a solicitor in the Supreme Court, eventually becoming registrar of probates in 1890, curator of intestate estates in 1896 and public trustee in 1914.

It was, however, his talent as a cricketer that brought him to a wider public notice. After showing early ability at school, he went on to play with distinction for both New South Wales and Australia.

In 1877 the 18-year-old Garrett was chosen to play for Australia in Melbourne against James Lillywhite's team of professionals, a match that has come to be considered the first Test against England.

He went on to tour England three times – in 1878, 1882 and 1886 – and represented Australia in seven Test series at home, scoring 339 runs and taking 36 wickets.

On the 1882 tour of England Garrett played in the famous Test at The Oval that saw Australia defeat England for the first time on English soil.

Fellow participants in that match included the legendary W. G. Grace (England) and 'the Demon bowler' F. R. Spofforth (Australia). August company indeed!

During the tense final overs, as the game swung Australia's way, a heart attack claimed one spectator and when the last wicket fell the crowd was stunned. England was seven runs short of victory!

In its next issue the *Sporting Times* reported the death of English cricket. "The body", it declared, "will be cremated and the ashes taken to Australia."

It was during the subsequent English tour of Australia in the southern summer of 1882-83 that the actual 'Ashes' were created



A recent image of 'Braemar' courtesy Marika Low

from the burning of a wicket bail. The embroidered velvet bag that held the small pottery urn in which they were kept was made by Anne Fletcher whose husband later established a boys' school in Katoomba. But that's another story!

Bearded, tall and lean, Garrett was primarily recognised as a right-arm, slightly more than medium pace bowler with an ability to swing the ball either way.

But he was no slouch with the bat and also proved a shrewd and successful captain of New South Wales. At the age of 38 in 1897 he scored 131 runs against a South Australian team that included the champion fast bowler Ernest Jones.

Thomas Garrett and his family appear to have resided in Springwood for a period of about ten years.

When they first arrived in 1898 they occupied 'Braemar', on what was then the Western Road east of the town centre. By 1908, they had moved to the western end of the town, to another small but substantial country villa named 'Stanway'.

During their time in Springwood, judging by reports of their activities in the Springwood news columns of the *Nepean Times*, the Garretts were actively involved in the life of the community.

Father and sons were members of both the cricket and rugby football clubs. Thomas served as a vice president of both and also helped to establish a golf club in the town in

1905. In 1909-10, when Springwood Cricket Club won the Nepean District premiership, three of Thomas's sons were in the team, one of them as captain.

Mother and daughters, too, were reported in various capacities at fetes organised by both Christ Church (Anglican) and Springwood Ladies College where the girls attended school.

Thomas Garrett also acted as honorary auditor for a number of local organisations including the Anglican Church, the Progress Association and the School of Arts.

The family left Springwood and returned to Sydney sometime around 1912. Garrett, the last survivor of the 1882 Australian team, died at Warrawee on August 6, 1943 at the age of 85.

Springwood's associations with cricket go back to its earliest days, with the first matches being played there probably in the 1870s.

Over the years the town's cricket ground at Lomatia Park has been the focus of some intense and spirited sporting contests.

Nor was Thomas Garrett the last of the town's links with the wider world of cricket for Nathan Bracken, a product of Springwood High School, now plays regularly for Australia in the 'One-Day' and '20-20' versions of the game.

John Low is the former local history librarian, Blue Mountains City Council and an individual member of BMACHO.

A model T Ford gives way to historic steam tram at Valley Heights Loco Depot Museum



Members of the Model T Ford Club posed for a staged level crossing scene under controlled conditions at Valley Heights during a visit earlier in the year. Photograph courtesy Peter Butler

The former Sydney steam tram motor no. 103A, a Baldwin 11676 pictured above is one of a number of restored historic transport relics to be found at the Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum.

It was the last steam tram motor in service on the NSW government tramways when withdrawn from service in 1937.

It then had an extended period in industrial service. It served on the Sydney Ferries Redbank Wharf tramway from 1937 to 1943, then became a shunter at Waddington Limited (later Commonwealth Engineering Ltd) works at Granville from 1943 to 1953.

Sydney steam tram motor 103A, built 1891, operated at the Parramatta Park Steam Tramway until the arson attack at the museum in June 1993.

The fire destroyed most rolling stock, and 103A's wooden cab was incinerated at this time but the remainder of the loco was salvaged for restoration and moved to Valley Heights, where a new cab has been built.

Following the fire, the society was unable to gain approval to re-establish in Parramatta Park. In 1997 the society was invited to move into the Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum and again took the initiative to complete the task of ensuring the steam tram preservation project would continue.

It was a special day for members of the Steam Tram and Railway Preservation Society, on September 16, 2005 when tram motor no 103A was officially returned to service following a 12-year rebuild.

Since 1954 the society has laboured long to ensure the remaining relics of the once extensive NSW steam tram network were saved from neglect. That legacy for future generations will be a genuine operating steam tram.

In 1879, steam operated tramways were introduced in Sydney, under the control of the Railway Commissioner.

Similarly operated systems were later used in Newcastle, Maitland, Broken Hill and between East Maitland-Morpeth, Parramatta-

Castle Hill, Campbelltown-Camden and Sutherland-Cronulla.

The Sydney and Newcastle systems were eventually electrified but the others, including three isolated lines in Sydney, Sutherland-Cronulla, Arncliffe-Bexley and Kogarah-Sans Souci, were steam worked until their closure.

The Campbelltown-Camden and East Maitland-Morpeth lines were eventually operated as light railways and used steam tram motors for a period of their existence.

The "motors" as the locomotives are called were of a standard design, introduced by the Baldwin Locomotive Works and 100 came from that firm. The remainder were built locally, either by contractors or in the Tramway Department's workshops.

The Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum is the Blue Mountains Division of the NSW Rail Transport Museum. The museum is located in the former Locomotive Depot at Valley Heights.

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VALLEY HEIGHTS STEAM LOCO DEPOT

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The museum preserves the depot buildings, the rail heritage of the Blue Mountains, and at the same time providing historical, educational and recreational facilities for the benefit of the Blue Mountains community and visitors to the region.

The society's goal is to operate the Steam Tramway in conjunction with the activities of the Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum, Tusculum Road, Valley Heights.

The society is also custodian of two small steam shunting locomotives and railway carriages. Some of this rolling stock is in various stages of restoration, while some is available for operation.

The museum's open days are the second and fourth Sundays of each month (except Mothers Day and the last Sunday in December) between 10am and 4pm. Information regarding the society can be obtained from our website: www.infoblumountains.net.au/locodepot/tram

BMACHO gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum, Andrew Tester, Peter Stock, Valley Heights Springwood Historical Society and Steam Tram and Railway Preservation (Co-op) Society Limited in the preparation of this article.

EDITOR'S ANECDOTE.....

THE IRON MONSTER....

Probably my oldest memory, was of an "iron monster" – a steam tram motor on a street somewhere in Sydney when I was probably about 4 or 5 years old.

Most of my life, I have had this vivid image in my mind of a scary iron monster, which my father had taken me to see for a Sunday family outing.

Try as I might for many years I had tried to find anyone who could give me an explanation of this iron monster, which I knew ran on rails down the middle of the street, shrouded in steam and as a youngster had scared the 'living daylights' out of me

Then all those years later in June 2006, I picked up a copy of the Springwood Historical Society



Valley Heights steam locomotive depot circa 1950. Black coal smoke from the depot could be seen for miles

According to Valley Heights resident Mr. Clyde Bruce, fledgling pilots in the late 1940s and early 1950s used the depot as a bearing on their flight path as they headed west from Sydney. Smoke from the depot could easily be seen from a height of a few thousand feet and was an ideal location to be used as a sight for their bearings

Shooting through Sydney by Tram exhibition

The Sydney Museum located on the corner of Bridge and Phillip Streets, Sydney is staging, "Shooting through Sydney by Tram" an exhibition depicting the 100 year history of Sydney's trams from 1861 to 1961.

The exhibition runs until October 18, 2009.

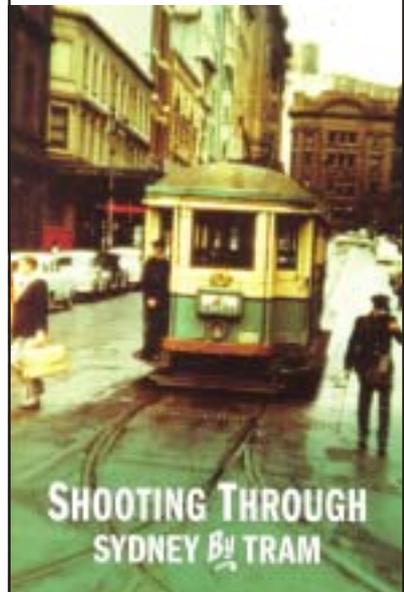
The museum opens daily from 9.30am to 5pm. Admission costs \$10 for adults, \$5 for a child or concession and \$20 for a family.

Bulletin in which was published a photograph and story of my "iron monster", exactly like my memory.

The Springwood Historical Society Bulletin recorded that this "monster" was the last steam tram motor in service on the government tramways when withdrawn in 1937.

I recall my fathers words were: "Come on Johnny don't be scared, you'll never see this monster again," and so it was; as apparently it was the last day the service would run. Although not on the last run, the 103A was the last to leave Kogarah before the motors were returned to Randwick workshops.

This grand old survivor, the "iron monster" of my boyhood days has come back into my life in my twilight years. John Leary, OAM.



MULGOA BICENTENARY

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the grant of land at Mulgoa by Lt Governor Paterson to 4 year old Edward Cox on November 1, 1809, confirmed by Governor Macquarie on January 1, 1810.

The settlement of the Mulgoa Valley began with the building of *The Cottage* in 1810. William Cox's three sons George, Henry and Edward lived at *The Cottage* before developing their own properties: *Winbourne* (1824), *Glenmore* (1825) and *Fernhill* (1842). With St. Thomas' Church (1836-1838), these buildings reflect the early pioneering phase of prosperity, evolution of architectural styles and the social and religious aspirations of the Cox family.

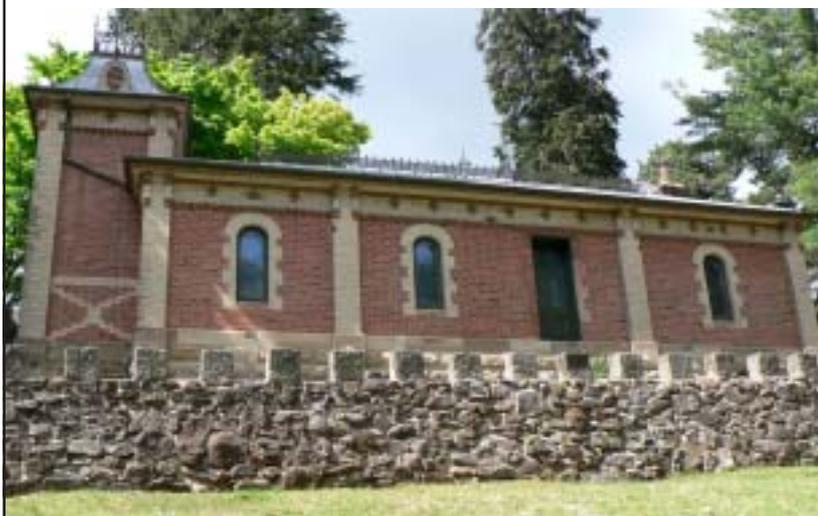
To celebrate the bicentenary of the first land grants in the Mulgoa Valley, various activities have been planned by Mulgoa Progress Association for Saturday, November 7, commencing at 10 am.

The festivities will be opened by Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales at 11 am in Mulgoa Park.

There will be activities in Mulgoa Park (Mulgoa Road, Mulgoa) including displays of vintage cars, old motor bikes, antique machinery, Sydney Colonial Muzzle Loading Club, Nepean Historical Society and activities by local schools.

The Mulgoa Progress Association will conduct tours to the grounds of *Fernhill*, *Winbourne*, *Fairlight* and *Glenleigh* (garden and interior). Buses will leave from the Mulgoa Hall in Mulgoa Park, Littlefields Road, Mulgoa (10 km south of Penrith) at 1 pm. Inspections by bus only. Cost: \$25 per person. Bookings: Send cheques, made payable to Mulgoa Progress Association, PO Box 71, Mulgoa 2745, with a stamped addressed return envelope and telephone contact details. For further information contact Kerry Spurrett, kspurrett@internode.on.net

GRANT FOR WORK ON TURKISH BATH



Restoration work on the Turkish Bath at Mt Wilson will be carried out during 2010 as a result of a successful grant application to the NSW Department of Planning, Heritage Branch by Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Historical Society.

The society will contribute \$16,000 towards the project to match the \$16,000 grant. The work will involve the replacement of galvanised corrugated roof sheeting; and the painting of four

timber louvers on the decorative roof tower located on the eastern side of the Turkish Bath.

The work is scheduled to take place between June and August 2010 and it is planned to close the museum during the period of construction.

Work to install lead moulding flashing at the base of the original entrance doorway has recently been completed.

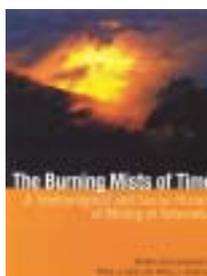
BOOK REVIEW

The Burning Mists of Time: A Technological and Social History of Mining at Katoomba

by Philip J. Pells & Philip J. Hammon

WriteLight Pty Ltd, Sydney, 2009. \$60.

ISBN 978 09775639 6 8



This book covers the geological and technological aspects of early shale mining in the Katoomba region and the history of the people involved. It also provides fascinating information on early life in Katoomba, as well as elsewhere in New South Wales, and an interesting account of the emergence of Scenic World, now the outstanding tourism attraction that occupies the site.

The book will be welcomed as a valuable contribution to the history of the region and is also easy to read.

There are absorbing excursions into byways, such as accounts of cooking recipes and medicine in mid-19th century Katoomba, that add to the work.

An attractively presented book, profusely illustrated with excellent colour and black & white historical and recent photographs as well as careful plans and maps to explain the geology and mining activities. Well worth buying.

Barrie Reynolds

(Also to be published in the newsletter of the Blue Mountains Historical Society)

DESCENDANTS HAVE LIVED ON KURRAJONG SITE FOR 184 YEARS

This article and images have been contributed by Mrs Kathie McMahon-Noff who was born on the same property that she now lives on and which has been owned by her ancestors since 1838.

Kathie and Louise McMahon were founding members of Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society originally formed to document the history of Kurrajong. The society now has a website and nearly 5000 images of the district.

Her "first love" is the history of Australian music. Kathie who is currently BMACHO's treasurer has had a very interesting life including working in leprosy colonies in New Guinea, after completing her training at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.



Kathie McMahon, a descendant of a convict, Thomas Higgins, lives on land which has been continuously in the ownership of her ancestors for 184 years.

On June 30, 1823, Thomas Hinton, also a convict, was granted 50 acres at Kurrajong known as Portion 161 which he sold to Higgins on May 9, 1825 for twenty pounds.

Born in 1791, Thomas Higgins was convicted of shooting a British soldier and was sentenced to 7 years servitude. He arrived on the "Surry" in November, 1816. He was later proved innocent of the offence.

In about 1831, Higgins donated 2 acres of Portion 161 to the Church of England. This was on the corner of Bells Line of Road and Hermitage Rd. and it became the first denominational church and school in the Kurrajong Brush.

Thomas Higgins also owned several other properties. He willed the farm Portion 161 together with 3 cows in calf, a black horse "Captain" and a

cart and harness at Kurrajong to his sister Mary McMahon in 1839. By then the estate was valued at one hundred pounds.

John and Mary McMahon who were free settlers sailed on the "Charles Kerr" from Limerick, Ireland on September 15, 1838 and arrived in Sydney on January 8, 1839.

They originally settled on Portion 161 near the creek close to Mill Road. With the formation of Bells Line of Road they moved up beside the road and built a small slab house called Luckenough

John and Mary McMahon's eldest daughter stayed on at Luckenough. John and Mary's youngest son Thomas moved onto 100 acres at "Dural View" on Comleroy Road. Thomas's third child James Edward moved back to Luckenough when he married Marie Norris. Here they raised 5 children and they built the Bellbird Echo Guest House in the late 1920's during the depression.

The guest house was a place where people enjoyed horse riding, tennis,

moonlight hikes and great food. It was noted for its fresh cream, butter and milk all produced on this property.

Throughout the years produce had always been sold at Bellbird Echo. It started in the 1920s when the McMahon's neighbour D'arcy Douglas started selling fruit on the side of Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong Hills.

Mrs Marie McMahon in the 1930s and 1940s always had a stall at the weekends selling the fruit and vegetables from the farm.

Her husband Kevin tells a story of how in 1947, his neighbour, Les Taylor brought him 4 half cases and four full cases of oranges to sell and they were all sold by the end of the day.

This Bellbird Echo Fruit Shop became a landmark for travellers from Sydney to purchase local fruit and vegetables.

In the late 1940s Kevin planted an orchard of oranges, lemons, apricots, peaches, nectarines and plums to supplement the shop. Kevin also purchased produce from local farmers.

Mr McMahon also had a wattle bark business. The black wattles which thrive in the Kurrajong area had a very high tannin content and the bark was much sought after by the leather tanneries. Kevin McMahon with Brian Dunston and dogs took the wattle bark to the tannery every Thursday and stopped at the Parramatta fruit and vegetable markets on the way home to supplement their fruit supply for the shop. **Continued page 7**



D'arcy Douglas selling fruit on his Kurrajong roadside stall with helpers including Kevin McMahon (the author's father) then aged about 10 years. All the fruit is in old type heavy wooden fruit boxes.

THINKING HERITAGE:

Many members will recall that BMACHO was created in response to concerns expressed at the Local History Conference held in Katoomba in 2005 regarding the parlous state of heritage services within the City of Blue Mountains. As a direct result of this concern, the new City Cultural Strategy (2006-2011) included, for the first time ever, a substantial heritage component (30%).

"This was only made possible by BMACHO working in close cooperation with the different historical societies across the city and we are grateful for their help", BMACHO secretary, Prof Barrie Reynolds said this week.

"Understandably, over the past three years BMACHO has devoted much time and effort to pressing council to rebuild and strengthen its heritage services. As a result:

- There is now one council staff member designated to handle any queries on heritage.
- The heritage advisor position has been reinstated (the advisor deals with development applications).

- The placing on-line of the substantial backlog of heritage site records is very close to completion and, we understand, is almost ready to be forwarded to State Heritage; it should then become available to the public. This backlog had built up over many years.

"Two important tasks remain: the formation of a community heritage advisory committee and the creation of the post of heritage officer, Barrie Reynolds said.

"We do not understand why there has been such reluctance on the part of council staff to move on the first issue. There is little cost involved. Action was approved by the general manager two years ago and council staff has even agreed on a planning meeting for the drafting of the terms of reference of the committee.

"Numerous successive 'reasons' have been given us during 2008 and 2009 for postponement of any action on the matter. Indeed, more time has probably been spent on these 'reasons' than would be involved in the planning meeting itself. We have now requested the meeting take place within September.



Barrie Reynolds

BMACHO's view is that the committee should involve the different societies, museums and similar bodies thus enabling them to have a direct input into council heritage matters.

"The other key task is the appointment of a heritage officer. Obviously, this would involve costs. At the same time, it is evident that a qualified and committed heritage officer is essential if council is to have a dynamic heritage unit and provide the Blue Mountains community with effective heritage services.

"Most of the matters mentioned above should be completed by the end of 2009. This would then free us to concentrate on the matter of the heritage officer as our prime concern in dealings with council during 2010."

First school in the Kurrajong Brush built in 1837

In about 1831 Thomas Higgins either sold or donated 2 acres of Portion 161 to the Church of England.

This land was on the corner of Bells Line of Road and Hermitage Road and it became the first denominational church and school in the Kurrajong Brush.

Vivienne Webb describes the history of the Church of England Denominational School¹:

Application was made to the Government in 1831 by Bishop Broughton for a Parochial School for boys and girls in the Currajong: "In all these cases it will be requisite that some expense

should be incurred in the erection of Huts containing two rooms and a skelling each, to be occupied as places of instruction for the children and as Residences for the Teachers: it will also be reasonable that about 1/2 acre of land to be employed as a garden should be attached to each Dwelling House and fenced with a substantial three rail fence.

The salary of the Masters according to the present Regulations will be £30 per annum with an allowance of three pence per week for each child actually in attendance and of £10 per annum to each school Mistress for instructing the Girls in Needlework.²

The school was built in 1836 at Hermitage Rd, Kurrajong Heights by E.E. Lord at a cost of £200. The building also served as a church and school until St Stephens Church was built in 1873 at Kurrajong³.

¹ Kathie McMahon McMahon Family. 160 years in the Kurrajong Brush

² Webb, Vivienne (1980) Kurrajong. An Early History. Published by author.

³ Reminiscences of Richmond - S Boughton

⁴ A photograph of this school may exist in the Mitchell Library.

Surveyors Institute members impressed by Mt Wilson's Scrivener exhibition material



Kathy and Ray Harrington recently found the photograph in the National Library of Australia of Charles Robert Scrivener sitting by the steam engine at the Mt Irvine sawmill.

Material used in the *Charles Robert Scrivener, 1855-1923, Capital Surveyor* exhibition at Mt Wilson is being sought for displays in Canberra and Sydney.

In 2001, the Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society mounted a major exhibition on the life and work of CR Scrivener who is best known for his work in surveying numerous sites in NSW for the selection of a site for the Australian Capital Territory and Canberra.

He also surveyed the Mt Irvine area as well as the access road across Bowen's Creek from Bilpin.

Between 2002 and 2004 the exhibition travelled to the RTA headquarters at Parramatta, Mt Tomah Gardens and the Fossil and Mineral Museum in Bathurst.

The material has been in storage at Mt Wilson for some time now as the

Society has been negotiating with a number of groups with the aim of having the exhibition on permanent display in Canberra.

Born in Canterbury in south west of Sydney, Scrivener was appointed the first director of Commonwealth Lands and Surveys in 1910 and retired in 1915.

The Scrivener Dam on Lake Burley Griffin is named in his honour.

Reporting to members of Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society, president Des Barrett stated that members of the Institution of Surveyors NSW as well as their Seniors Group and the Canberra Division of the Institution were all delighted with what they saw of the exhibition material and expressed their wish to see the material displayed both in Canberra and Sydney.

The display will be used, subject to a number of conditions being met, in a number of important milestones leading up to the centenaries of the ACT-NSW border survey and the survey of Canberra itself.

The above image appeared in the August 2009 Newsletter No 20 of the Mt Historical & Mt Irvine Society.

Welcome to Mid Mountains Historical Society

The Mid Mountains Historical Society is the latest organisation to join the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations. This society has done considerable historical research on the township of Lawson. It has also been involved over a number of years in negotiations with the RTA and Blue Mountains City Council in a bid to save the Lawson's Mechanics Institute threatened by highway widening.

POSITIONS VACANT

Volunteer Required

Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum

Volunteers are required to work in the Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Museum shop.

Some experience with Cash handling, Catering, Food handling or Customer Service experience would be an advantage but is not essential. All training will be provided.

The role involves ticket sales to customers, retail sales of the museum's range of souvenirs and memorabilia, as well as refreshments including coffee/tea and light snacks. We are looking for diligent and reliable people with a friendly, outgoing nature who like dealing with people.

The museum is open on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, as well as additional Sundays during public holidays from 10am to 4pm. Volunteers working in the shop would be expected to be available from 8.30am to approximately 4.30pm on open days. You will be expected to be available to be rostered every 2nd or 3rd open day.

If you feel you could fulfill this voluntary opportunity and would be interested in trying something new, please contact our Retail Manager, Steve Corrigan on 4759 1980 or sjc_alco@pnc.com.au

WALKS & TALKS

Glenbrook and District Historical Society's Walks and Talks program for Saturday, September 26 is titled *Dunn's Sawmill site, Lennox Bridge*. For further information

pplinden@yahoo.co.au

Wallerawang and Charles Darwin

The visit of Charles Darwin to Wallerawang is thought so important that the Lithgow branch of the National Trust of Australia (NSW) has built a memorial to the acclaimed scientist, Charles Darwin. Darwin was a diligent man who kept extensive diaries and note books. From these it is possible to appreciate much of his journey and the locations that he described.

Within the context of a five year voyage in the *Beagle*, the few days he spent at Wallerawang may seem insignificant. However, they had a profound influence on Darwin's thinking about evolution.

He collected a range of specimens and samples at the location and when Darwin first saw the platypus it prompted one of the most significant entries in his diary. "Earlier in the evening I had been lying on a sunny bank [of the Cox's River] and was reflecting on the strange character of the animals of this country as compared to the rest of the world. A disbeliever in everything beyond his reason, might exclaim, 'Surely two distinct Creators



must have been [at] work; their object however has been the same and certainly in each case the end is complete".

REFERENCES

Charles Darwin in Australia FW & JM Nicholas, Cambridge University Press 2008 and Charles Darwin: An Australian Selection. National Museum of Australia Press 2008

BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

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Website: www.bluemountains.heritage

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-Mountains Historical Society, 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), Kathie McMahan (treasurer), Jean Arthur, Ray Christison, Lyn Fowler, Doug Knowles, and Dick Morony (public officer), Peter Stanbury.

AUDITOR: Sue McMahan, B Comm CPA

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

HERITAGE is BMACHO's official newsletter.