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OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS

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Governor Macquarie 200-years on

Lachlan Macquarie assumed the reins of government in New South Wales on New Year's Day, 1810, and remained responsible for the colony until the end of November 1821.

His achievements in restoring public administration after the unrest which had unseated Governor Bligh, his ambitious programme of public works and his attempts to create an effective society in which most landholders were ex-convicts or the children of convicts will be recognised in a variety of bicentenary events during 2010.

Macquarie's colony consisted primarily of eastern New South Wales and Tasmania, so his bicentenary is less emotive to modern Australians whose affiliations do not lie in these parts. Within New South Wales, interest is keenest in Sydney itself, across the Cumberland Plain (not least in the Hawkesbury towns) and along the Great Western Highway as far as Bathurst.

The aspects of Macquarie's administration which resonate in these separate parts of the state do not, of course, relate solely to 1810.

The town-sites along the Hawkesbury-Nepean, as well as Liverpool, were indeed selected and named before 1810 ended, but an urban reality in Windsor, Richmond, Wilberforce, Pitt Town, Castlereagh and Liverpool was realised only gradually over the twelve years of

Macquarie's governorship and beyond.

The first professional survey of a viable route across the Blue Mountains was not undertaken on Macquarie's orders until late in 1813 and William Cox's convicts did not complete the construction of the first road from Emu Plains to the future Bathurst until January 1815.

The public works, like Hyde Park Barracks and St Mathew's Anglican Church in Windsor, which aroused so much criticism at the end of Macquarie's reign, were built over a number of years and some were incomplete when Macquarie returned to Britain in February 1822.

So what will be celebrated in the various functions, symposia, lectures and exhibitions, together with the erection or re-erection of statues and plaques, planned for 2010, will inevitably relate to the totality of Macquarie's governorship and cannot be restricted to the events of 1810 alone.

At the same time, it is clear that over the next few years after 2010 there will be significant efforts in the Blue Mountains to commemorate the exploration, surveying and road-making of 1813 to 1814 and it is



likely that Bathurst will seek to celebrate Macquarie's journey over the Mountains culminating in his declaration of the new town in May 1815.

Individual buildings and sites associated with Macquarie are, moreover, being assessed for inclusion on the State Heritage Register during 2010 and over the next decade recognition will no doubt be made on appropriate dates, publicising the significance of each individual place.

So, however crowded the Macquarie calendar for 2010 is becoming, this year will not and should not be the end of the interest in this critically important governor.

This article has been written by Associate Professor Ian Jack, president, Royal Australian Historical Society and vice president, Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations.



The articulate and welcome enthusiasm for Governor Lachlan Macquarie expressed by our present Governor Marie Bashir has helped to ensure that there is potent patronage for the planned events.
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The age of Macquarie.....

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It is to be hoped, however, that the commemorative impulse will not simply be adulatory. Macquarie's policies deserve the most serious reappraisal both in their immediate effects and in their long-term results in shaping the colony as it expanded beyond the constraints of the coastal plain. Macquarie was not all white, nor was Commissioner Bigge all black: the facile tag dubbing Macquarie 'Father of Australia' is at best only a suggestive half-truth.

Macquarie's biographers, Malcolm Ellis, Noel McLachlan and John Ritchie, in 1947, 1967 and 1986 respectively, together with Manning Clark in 1962, and James Broadbent, Joy Hughes and the others responsible for the great exhibition called *The Age of*



The plaque which Macquarie erected on the south wall of St Matthew's Anglican church in Windsor in 1820. Photograph taken by Ian Jack on July 18, 2009.

Macquarie mounted at Hyde Park Barracks in 1992, have given a wide public increasingly more ample data on which to reappraise the man and his times.

It is hoped that the impetus of the bicentenary events of 2010 will lead not just to triumphalism and a few more plaques, but also to an

intense historical evaluation which revisits both the rich documentary evidence and the physical testimony of the buildings, the roads and the planned towns. Macquarie, for all his faults, was a great governor who presided over a decade of critical importance to the young colony. I hope that we rise to the challenge of memorialisation.

Macquarie bicentenary commemorations

The 200th anniversary of Macquarie's swearing in as the 5th governor of NSW will be commemorated with a state-wide celebration program to acknowledge the significant contribution and achievements of Governor Macquarie and his wife

Elizabeth during their 12 year tenure.

The Macquarie 2010 Bicentenary Commemorations Committee was established to coordinate the NSW State Government's involvement in the bicentenary.

The committee is encouraging state and local government agencies, community organisations, businesses and individuals to be part of the commemorations by organising a new activity or reorganising an existing event under the 'Macquarie' theme and applying for endorsement.

DARLEY HOUSE WINS TWO CHEFS HATS' AWARD

The heritage property Darley House now operating as Darley's Restaurant as part of the Lilianfels complex at Katoomba has won a coveted Sydney Morning Herald Food Guide Award 2010.

The property was featured in the November-December 2009 edition of **HERITAGE**.

The property was originally built for Frederick Darley and his wife who came to Australia in 1862, on the advice of Sir Alfred Stephen (the Chief Justice of NSW) who convinced Darley that he would further his career in the colony. Darley was knighted in 1887, served as the Chief Justice of NSW and five times as the Lieutenant Governor of NSW.

Orient-Express purchased Lilianfels in 2000 and the company, along with the hotel manager, Grant Raubenheimer, are committed to the protection and celebration of Lilianfels' heritage while promoting the property as a premier luxury resort within the World Heritage listed Blue Mountains area.

Lilianfels is a founding member of BMACHO.



The Endorsement Program provides an opportunity for initiatives to be part of the calendar of events listed on the official website.

Endorsees will also gain permission to use the logo and be given access to on-line resources and opportunities to expand the potential audience for their bicentenary activities.

The official calendar will be an historical record of how the Bicentenary was commemorated - so why not register your initiative and be part of history!

Contact: Community Engagement and Events Division, NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet on 9228 4513 or Macquarie2010@dpc.nsw.gov.au
Further information: www.macquarie2010.nsw.gov.au



From the president's pen.....

Protection for heritage – What protection?

In recent times there has been considerable media coverage expressing concern about the NSW Government's decision to absorb the Heritage Office into the Department of Planning as well as giving the Planning Minister power over both development and heritage protection. (*Global economic crisis to benefit our heritage – HERITAGE July-August 2009*).

This column is indebted to Steve Rawling AM, who is chair of the Hawkesbury Branch of National Trust for detailing just how little protection our heritage has under various existing listings, in his article in the December 2009 edition of Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society's newsletter *The Millstone*.

People often do not realise that even before the changes introduced by the NSW Government, many buildings and other items of real heritage value had virtually no protection. It is useful to look at the various levels of 'heritage listings'.

Listing by the National Trust of Australia. The Trust has done a wonderful job for five decades in identifying items of heritage value, and 'listed by the National Trust' is taken by many to indicate some level of protection.

Unfortunately, this listing affords no legal or statutory protection at all. It simply means that the Trust has established its heritage value and by this listing it is hoped it may influence state and local government decisions about possible developments affecting the item.

Council Local Environment Plans. Local government authorities are required to list in their Local Environment Plans (LEPs) those items of heritage value which they have been able to identify.

Councils have a responsibility to take heritage values into account when assessing development applications and to take steps to ensure that items are maintained in a secure way.

Blue Mountains City Council only last month sent to the Heritage Branch a record of some 800 sites, the list having been compiled by a highly regarded heritage professional consultant way back between 1999 and 2005.

Although there are some notable exceptions, most councils do not have a good record with anecdotal evidence that development has taken precedence over preservation. The worrying aspect of this is that the policy of 'demolition by neglect' is a major limitation to the requirement on local government.

State Heritage Inventory. This is merely a record at state level of what is on a council's LEPs without adding any further protection.

State Heritage Register. Inclusion on the register of items of 'State significance' means that items are protected under the NSW Heritage Act and cannot be demolished or damaged without making an application to the Heritage Branch of the NSW Department of Planning.

Under Frank Sartor, then Minister for Planning, the Heritage Office, an independent government agency became a mere Heritage Branch within the Department of Planning. When the Heritage Amendment Act came into force in 2009, the powers of the Heritage Council were substantially reduced by various legislative changes, so that greater power now resides in the hands of the Minister for Planning.

There is no doubt that most groups concerned with heritage and history, including the Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS), the

History Council of NSW, the National Trust of Australia and Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisation (BMACHO) regard the present situation as unsatisfactory.

National Heritage List. A national heritage system was established in 2004 under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

This led to the introduction of the National Heritage List, which is designed to recognise and protect places of outstanding heritage to the nation, and the Commonwealth Heritage List, which includes Commonwealth owned or leased places of significant heritage value.

The establishment of this national system was in line with a 1997 agreement by the Council of Australian Governments that each level of government should be responsible for protecting heritage at the appropriate level.

World Heritage Listing. Australia is party to the UNESCO Convention of 1972 which administers the World Heritage List. There are 890 items world-wide of which 17 are in Australia including the Greater Blue Mountains Area, Sydney Opera House and the Great Barrier Reef.

It is indeed sad that much of what is considered as our heritage has little or no legal protection in the face of development proposals or from demolition by neglect.

Australia's heritage depends on the vigilance of the community and the willingness of federal, state and local government to place a higher priority on heritage values.

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

Mapping workshop at Bathurst

An outstanding workshop covering a wide range of topics associated with map making, surveying and restoration of maps has been arranged for BMACHO members.

The workshop to be held at the Land and Property Management Authority's complex at Bathurst will be held on Friday, February 19, 2010.

A limited number of 20 can be accommodated by the Authority and this number will be broken into two groups to tour the complex, see the various processes and talk with senior staff.

Arrangements have been made to hire a small bus to take the party to and from Bathurst. The cost including morning tea on arrival and lunch will cost \$20

Doug Knowles a member of Glenbrook and District Historical Society Inc. will drive the bus which will reduce the hire cost and allow for a number of stops to be made to pick up and drop off passengers on the way home.

Booking may be made by telephone to Doug Knowles on 4751 3275 (let phone ring a long time). Bookings will require payment within 7 days as it is expected more people will wish to participate in this activity than can be accommodated.

The bus will leave from Macquarie Street opposite Springwood railway station entrance at 7.45am. The number of stops will depend on the locations from which participants come, but at this stage it is expected to be Wentworth Falls, Mt Victoria and Lithgow. Exact pick-up locations will be advised when bookings are made.

Participants will arrive at Bathurst at 10am for morning tea before being addressed by Warrick Beacroft, executive manager of the Land and Property Management Authority then touring the complex.

Participants will see the historic surveying equipment, discuss the activities of the Geographical Names Board, inspect imagery and elevation programs, graphic



services; conversion and preservation operations.

After lunch at 12.30pm there will be demonstrations of LPMA internet based applications for mapping and surveying.

After a half hour wind-up session, participants will depart Bathurst for the return trip.

Pictured is Sir Thomas Mitchell's theodolite dated 1828 atop a hand drawn map part of the heritage collection at the Land and Property Management Authority at Bathurst and which will be among items to be viewed during the February workshop. Mitchell is believed to have used the theodolite in surveying across the Blue Mountains.

Director provides insight into work of Heritage Branch

BMACHO hosted a general meeting at the Glenbrook Bowls Club on Friday, November 20 which attracted 29 participants. The meeting was organised by Doug Knowles and Barrie Reynolds. In the unavoidable absence of the president, Barrie chaired the meeting.

Mrs Petula Samios, director of the State Heritage Branch, spoke on the work of the branch, outlining its responsibilities and the main aspects of recent changes to the Heritage Act.

The branch provides support to the Heritage Advisory Council and gives practical information to people enquiring about their heritage properties.

The branch also maintains the Register of Sites, is responsible for advising the minister on the heritage implications of

development proposals, and has a program of heritage grants.

There were numerous questions from the audience, many focused on individual properties and their protection under the Act.

While the director understandably could not advise off the cuff on these, she offered to do so in response to written enquiry.

Ms Samios also explained how the main thrust of the registration of sites is now theme-based although a number of urgent cases are considered even where they fall outside these themes.

The meeting provided a valuable insight into the way in which heritage matters are dealt with at State level and some of the constraints under which the branch works. **Barrie Reynolds**

World Heritage Institute launches on-line exhibition

The Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute has launched on-line a mixed media exhibition developed to share the stories, reflections and memories of the Blue Mountains community. The eucalypt is used as a catalyst and symbol of recording and interpreting the community's inspiration and connection to this region from historical and contemporary perspectives drawing from private, community and public collections.

It brings together contemporary artists and community contributions sharing their archival material, social history and contemporary artworks from cross cultural perspectives highlighting the different and changing social, environmental, geographical and cultural landscapes. It highlights the different perspectives through people, places and events that have shaped our attitudes, values and lifestyles of living in a unique World Heritage area and our vision for the future.

"This exhibition provides the opportunity to reflect on the complex relationship between nature and people from a local and global perspective and the impact of fire for both current and future generations," BMWHI's project convenor Cheryle Yin-Lo said.

Ms Yin-Lo brought together a community curatorium of Helen Deane, Graham Davis King, John Leary OAM, Anitra Nelson and Suzann Victor to research and develop the exhibition and involved residents and artists who contributed and loaned their works and cultural material.

Ms Yin-Lo also thanked Roland Hemmert, John Low, Bronwen Maxwell, Judy (nee Ralph) Deane and John Deane for their assistance to the project; and to the Centre for Cultural Research, University of Western Sydney for their support; and to Sarah Terkes for helping create the online gallery. The project was funded by Arts NSW. The exhibition can be viewed on <http://bmwhi.org.au/what/projects/BranchingOut/2/>



One of my favourite eucalypts in the Blue Mountains is the one which is about 70 years old, growing beside the oldest building on the Blue Mountains - Woodford Academy.

Woodford Academy originally was a wayside inn built by a ticket of leave convict, Thomas Pembroke in the 1830s.

It must have been surrounded by eucalypts such as this specimen. Travellers who stopped off at the sandstone building to quench their thirst with a glass of ale, take a meal or stay overnight must have seen these majestic trees being cut down to make sleepers for the Great Western Railway's dual ribbon of steel as its construction in the 1860s pressed relentlessly

on to open up much of the country to the west for rural settlement.

No doubt the Dharug and Gundungurra people who passed through this country sheltered under these eucalyptus trees, for not less than 50 metres from this tree are sandstone engravings believed to be timelines.

Just as the built heritage of European settlement is important, so too is the natural heritage bound up in the eucalypts perhaps for tens of thousands of years.

This image of the eucalypt brings together the natural and built heritage while invoking the country's cultural heritage going back perhaps 40,000 years. *Text and photograph by John Leary, OAM.*

Lithgow hosts Australian Mining History Association conference



Pictured are participants in the 2009 Australian Mining History Association annual conference, the final sessions being hosted by State Mines at Lithgow.

The conference included presentations on the mining history of the region and tours of important mining sites.

A pre-conference tour explored the gold mining heritage of Hill End and a post-conference tour experienced the abandoned oil shale town of Glen Davis.

Conference participants were also given the opportunity to visit Scenic World Katoomba, Lithgow Zig Zag Railway and the Western Mines Rescue Station with its world-leading virtual underground coal mine.

The morning spent at the State Mine was considered by many to be a highlight of the conference.

Participants were amazed at the Unions NSW display of historic trade union banners and entertainment provided by local folk singers Martin Doherty and Leigh Birkett of local group *Roisin*. Martin and Leigh gave the first public performance of Martin's new song about the Lithgow State Coal Mine and its horses. *Photograph courtesy Lithgow Mercury*

The Blue Mountains History Journal launched

Invitations are now being issued seeking contributions of articles to the inaugural issue of *The Blue Mountains History Journal* which is to be published online under the auspices of Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations Inc. (BMACHO).

The aim of this publication is to provide an outlet for fully referenced articles on any aspect of the human history, and related subjects, of the Greater Blue Mountains and neighbouring areas.

It is the intention to publish articles that are 'intermediate' in size between those that can go into newsletters and those that could be chapters in books.

The text should be between 3 and 12 A4 pages, single spaced, 12 point, (c.1,500-6,000 words); illustrations being additional.

All submissions will be refereed.

The journal will be freely available in electronic form via a dedicated website, to which there will be unrestricted access.

Articles may be submitted by anyone.

To ensure that authors get value for their efforts, hard copies of all published articles will be archived

in the National Library of Australia, the State Library of NSW, the Royal Australian Historical Society, the Springwood Library, the Lithgow Regional Library and with the Blue Mountains Historical Society Inc.

It is intended to publish the first issue on or about June 1, 2010 and subsequent issues will be uploaded either annually or bi-annually. 'Author Guidelines' are available on the website <http://www.bluemountainsheritage.com.au/journal>

Manuscripts for the inaugural issue need to reach the editor Dr PC Rickwood by e-mail to p.rickwood@unsw.edu.au by March 1, 2010.



The Blue Mountains History Journal editor, Dr Peter Rickwood

Mt Wilson stalwarts stand down

Two long standing members the Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Historical Society did not seek re-election to the committee at its annual general meeting last November.

Mr Des Barrett, president of the society paid tribute to both men, Emeritus Professor Arthur Delbridge and Bruce Wright.

"Arthur was a member of the committee from the time of the formation of the society in 1997, which was then known as The Mount Wilson Historical Society. He became Chairman later in that year. Bruce joined the society in 1997 and early in 1998 became project director.

"Both men were accustomed to the many demands placed upon them through committee work. Our society receives an extraordinary number of requests that eventually come before the management committee. Decisions are required, there are meetings to attend and museum exhibits to produce, ideas and opinions are expressed, and a host of practical matters need to be implemented.

"Arthur and Bruce made a substantial contribution and served the society with distinction through their work on the management committee.

"More broadly, Arthur will be known to all members through his very moving Remembrance Day talks and publications, his obituary for the late Luigi Strano, and his engaging talk at last year's AGM *Our Words: The History of an Enterprise*, which was about the origins and development of the *Macquarie Dictionary*.

Who better to tell us all about the making of the *Dictionary*, than the Foundation Professor of Linguistics at the university?

"I did my first day of museum duty shortly after I joined the society and became its president. It didn't take too long before I became aware that many visitors were puzzled by the notion of a Turkish bath (they were expecting something between a large bath and a sizeable bathing



Bruce Wright and Arthur Delbridge AO, pictured after a meeting at Mt Wilson in 2002

pool!) and how the place would have been heated.

"Not knowing the answers to their intriguing questions, I quickly guided them to the basement and told the story of the Turkish bath's 'heating technology' as best I could.

But I knew there remained large gaps in my knowledge. Bruce told me of his interest in this matter and we agreed to collaborate.

"So, over several months we exchanged ideas and compiled rough notes that are to become working notes for others to use

when they are on museum duty and facing curly questions about the production and distribution of the heat in the Turkish bath.

"Bruce has produced *The Turkish Bath Design Investigation: Preliminary Notes Towards an Investigation of the Original Mechanics and Functioning of the Turkish Bath* (October, 2007). I'm hopeful that the document will see the light of day, but for the present can I simply say, that we're off to a solid start through Bruce's fine work.

"Arthur and Bruce, thank you for a job well done," said Mr Barrett.

Organic garden workshops at Norman Lindsay Gallery

A series of one day gardening workshops will be held at Norman Lindsay Gallery and Museum at Faulconbridge.

Subjects include weed control, mulching, compost making, preparing vegetable and herb gardens, health and safety, organic pest control and tool selection and maintenance.

The workshops will run on Saturdays February 13, 27 and March 6, 2010.



Cost: \$50. Bookings: essential to 4751 1067.

Pictured is Norman Lindsay Gallery gardener Will Smith, conducting an earlier Organic Gardening Workshop

Indigenous people knew of basalt at Mt Wilson long before Europeans

This article is an abridged version of an address given by Dr Peter Rickwood to the annual general meeting of Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine on November 14, 2009.

Peter is a visiting senior research fellow at the School of Biological, Earth & Environmental Science at the University of NSW and president of the Blue Mountains Historical Society Inc. He is also the inaugural editor of BMACHO's Blue Mountains History Journal, the first edition of which is to be published online in June 2010.



The areas of Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine surveyed over a century ago, roughly delineate the extent of the basalt which gives an excellent soil that provides nutrient for luxuriant botanical growth.

Implements made from basalt have been found in the Grose Valley, and elsewhere in the Blue Mountains, so indigenous occupants undoubtedly knew of the existence of basalt long before the period of recorded history.

But who first wrote of basalt at Mount Wilson?

George Caley was the first European to get a reasonably close view of Mt Wilson when on November 14, 1804 he and his party reached Mt Banks; but although he had passed over much basalt he described the rock using other terms.

It was Surveyor General, TL Mitchell who made the first specific mention of basalt in the Blue Mountains during a visit in November 1827 and he even collected samples! - but not from Mt Wilson.

In 1832 Surveyor WR Govett became the first European known to have stepped on land later called Mt Wilson but he, and many after him, failed to record basalt.

Indeed, it was not until 1875 that the presence of basalt *per se* was recorded on the ridge at Mt Wilson by C.S. Wilkinson, the government geologist.

The present distribution of basalt on the Blue Mountains is unusual for a single flow, yet the surface area (c.115 km²), and the total volume (roughly estimated at 0.5km³), are not excessive for a single eruption.

For nearly a century it was thought that the Blue Mountains basalt came from a single fissure located somewhere near Mt Wilson, yet Mt Banks is at a comparable height so presenting an impossible flow situation for that proposal to be true.

A reconnaissance geochemical survey by UNSW students in 1981 revealed a most striking subdivision of basalt samples into a western group (Mt Hay and Mt Wilson) of older (c.18 million years) and more primitive rock and an eastern group (Mt Tootie, Mt Tomah and Mt Irvine) that are younger (c. 15 Ma) and more chemically evolved.

Annually for over a decade, subsequent students undertook closer sampling of the Mt Wilson-Mt Irvine outcrops. Groups of 3 or 4, each group accompanied by a qualified geologist, spent a day swinging sledge hammers so that each student could find 5-6 basalt boulders that were 'fresh' enough

for the project - but even the 'best' had some degree of alteration.

A lot of boulders were rejected in the field, and of those taken back to the University about 40% were rejected on the basis of examination of thin sections with a microscope. Each student crushed and analysed their three 'freshest' samples and then reported on their findings.

One outcome was that the basalt on Smiths Hill was found to be layered with the lowest layer having the highest SiO₂ and the highest layer having the least, thus the top of the reservoir was tapped first so progressively the silica and Zr diminished whereas Mg and Ni increased.

In over 400 basalt samples, only one large zircon crystal (c.1 cm diameter) was found and that was seen in a sample collected on the south-western side of Smiths Hill.

Continued page 9.



Pale zircons found in the Mt Wilson area

Zircon Creek gives up its gems

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The host rock is not unusual in any other way; it did not have the highest Zr content of the samples from Smiths Hill, and a value 88% higher was found in one sample from Mt Irvine! Primary zircons are very rare in basalts, and usually are very small, so it is probable that this large zircon was fortuitously derived from rocks pierced by the magma on its way to the surface.

Panning sediment collected in Zircon Creek confirmed the justification for the name with the recovered zircons being both honey-pink and red-brown in colour and of three basic shapes - rounded, angular fragments and doubly terminated.

But where did they come from?

All of the creeks that drain Smiths Hill go into the Wollangambe River and it is topographically impossible for the basalt at Field Selection to have contributed to sediment in the creek upstream of Mt Irvine Road! So the panned zircons came from the basalt on Farrer Road, or from the underlying sediment, or both.

The Farrer Road basalt is unlikely to be a prime source of sediment into Zircon Creek for it is relatively thin, the remaining boulders are robust, and the soil seems to be well fixed by vegetation.

But between the basalt and the panning site are 65m of

sedimentary rocks. The lower sandstones are unlikely to have contributed a great deal to the sediment in the creek for the Buralow formation does not exceed 6m in thickness anywhere, and here the outcrop of the Banks wall sandstone may be even thinner.

The dominant sediment is the Hawkesbury sandstone which has a heavy mineral assemblage with an 8:5 ratio of rounded zircon to angular zircon – about the proportions that were panned from Zircon Creek.

But where were the vents from which the basalt came?

Nowhere in the deeply eroded gorges has there been found a patch of basalt so the vent or vents have to be hidden beneath existing patches of basalt that lie on the ridges.

Only one of these places has been found to have features that may indicate it to have been a source site; it lies within a small valley on Edgeworth David Head that has never been properly explored. So the mystery remains although today it is suspected that eruptions occurred at various times somewhere on the western end of the Mt Wilson ridge, at Smiths Hill, maybe at Field Selection, at Mt Irvine, at Mt Tomah, at Mt Caley, at Mt Banks and possibly elsewhere. At one time this has been a volcanically active area!

ANOTHER GOVT. GRANT FOR BMACHO

BMACHO has been successful in its application for another grant.

The association has received advice from the Member for Macquarie, Bob Debus, that \$3127 will be provided from the Federal Government's, Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Volunteers Grants 2009.

The grant is for BMACHO to purchase computer projection equipment to allow for the use of PowerPoint presentations.

PowerPoint is a presentation program developed by Microsoft.

It is part of the Microsoft Office suite, and runs on Microsoft Windows and Apple's Mac, Apple's Mac OS X computer operating systems.

PowerPoint is widely used by business people, educators, students, and trainers.

PowerPoint presentations consist of a number of individual pages or "slides". The "slide" analogy is a reference to the slide projector that has become obsolete with the use of PowerPoint and other presentation software.

The presentation can be printed, displayed live on a computer, or navigated through at the command of the presenter.

For larger audiences the computer display is often projected using a video projector.

The equipment when purchased will be used for visual presentations at lectures and meetings.

Secretary Barrie Reynolds has advised that a total of \$8100 has so far been obtained in grants in recent years.

Family History Society has new committee

The Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc has announced its office bearers for 2009-2010:

They are: president, Joan Edwards; vice president, Jan Koperberg; secretary, John Arnold; treasurer, Ian Kendall; committee members; Pat Carruthers, Terry Flowers, Pixie Hallinan, Pauline Hincksman, Audrey King, Rosemary Phillips and Alison Tissington.

Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Historical Society's officers

At recent annual general meeting of Mt Irvine and Mt Wilson Historical Society the following were elected to the management committee for 2009-10:

Des Barrett, Helen Cardy, Darrel Conybeare, Kathy Harrington, Anne Myall, Kathleen Oakes and Florence Smart; with Mary Reynolds as research officer and public officer being ex-officio.

Good, Better, Best

-Improving volunteer experience

by Peter Stanbury, OAM, Ph.D.

Dr Peter Stanbury, OAM has been a volunteer in various organisations for many years and has been an executive member of BMACHO since its inception. He has been a volunteer with Australian Business Volunteers (ABV) for a number of years and has worked as a volunteer in many countries including Egypt, Cambodia and Peru. He was formerly the director of Macleay Museum at Sydney University. He was recently awarded the ABV's annual Altruism Award for 2009.

It is rarely enough to advertise for (more) volunteers and expect people to come along and fulfil your expectations, especially if you haven't worked out what it is that you want and how they might fit into your environment.

The principal part of your environment if you already have volunteers (or staff) is those volunteers (or staff). They must understand the need and role of the newcomers and be prepared to make a special effort to assist them to become an integral part of the organisation.

It is not so much the welcome that counts; more importantly, they should understand and feel part of the organisation within the first few days and feel accepted by all members of the volunteer community.

To achieve this needs forethought, planning and a special effort during the first days of the new volunteer's active duty.

Forethought and Planning

Although one cannot predict the talents of the people who will enquire about volunteering, there should at least be a list of skills required, prepared before any advertising for volunteers is commenced.

What jobs need doing? What experience is necessary to carry out those jobs efficiently?

Volunteers do not receive a salary but potential workers should be given a written statement, that covers such matters as workers' insurance, personal, data and building contents security, an outline of any training or experience based learning that may be given,



Peter Stanbury speaking at the annual Gala function of Australian Business Volunteers (ABV), which is based in Canberra. ABV send approximately 300 volunteers annually to 15 Asia Pacific countries including: Vietnam, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Laos and Vanuatu. Also pictured from left to right: David Moore, ABV chairman; Suzanna Edwards, volunteer; Robyn Wood, Andrew Jones Travel; and Michael Lynch, ABV chief executive officer. On screen: staff of the National Museum of Cambodia discussing an exhibition display with Peter Stanbury.

the expected hours or days of work, and some information about the background, passions and skills of the people already working.

It is important that the potential volunteer feels able to relate to those already there and understands that basic working precautions are in place.

While pay is not offered it may be possible in some circumstances to receive reimbursement for necessary train or bus fares, or to partake in an annual excursion free of charge and certainly to expect to have morning and afternoon tea supplied. Tea time and excursions are an important vehicle for discussing improvements and future developments.

A Volunteer's Responsibilities

A volunteer works to benefit the organisation, not to benefit him or herself.

That is not to say there are no rewards (for example: fulfilment, companionship, leadership or exercise of talent) for the volunteer: there are, or few would volunteer. But volunteering must be done willingly, enthusiastically and without obvious hidden agendas.

It is of the utmost importance to be reliable, punctual, show respect to fellow workers, and be understanding of their views. Leave your personal worries behind and be cheerful and optimistic when you are at work.

Volunteers award presentations

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You should also understand that any activities that you engage in away from work should not bring discredit or reflect poorly on the organisation for which you volunteer.

None of the above should stop you from offering occasional well thought out clearly expressed opinions about current practice or future developments. Do not criticise present practice but explain how things could be done in less time, more cheaply or more efficiently.

Treat people as you would like to be treated, expect to compromise from time to time and never allow a situation to escalate. There is no point scoring points if they are going to escalate bad feelings that linger and corrupt work practice.

Remember time is on your side - if an idea doesn't get up today, there is always next week, next month or next year when you have had more time to think about it and perhaps modify and improve it.

Duty statements

A person who has been doing a certain job for some time will have no difficulty writing down what they do every day. This document will be a great help for anyone who takes over the job and is the simplest way of writing a duty statement.

Such statements build good practice as they are modified from time to time. The "what I do and why" ensures correct procedure in much the same way as writing down the potential significance of an object when it is offered to the collection. If there is nothing to write down - if you can't think of anything to write, then the action or the object is not relevant to the organisation.

Think before you volunteer

There are many opportunities to volunteer. The place nearest home is not necessarily the right choice. Where do your interest lie? What obvious jobs are there within the organisation? What jobs could be developed? Which organisation is actively looking for people? Do you know anyone else who volunteers in



Suzanna Edwards and Peter Stanbury shared ABV's annual Altruism Award for 2009. Altruism is defined as the deliberate pursuit of the interests or welfare of others and is one of the key components of successful volunteering.

a specific organisation? Are you offering a specific skill or common sense, practicality and dedication? What hours or days are you prepared to offer? If things go well can you afford to increase the hours you offer? How will this extra absence affect your family?

Privileged Volunteering

Volunteering abroad brings special rewards but requires special arrangements. Who will look after your house, garden and pets? Will you have to learn at least basic words in another language? What are the weather conditions like? Where will you live? Can you enjoy local food, meal after meal? Do you need special funding? What do you know about the local customs and outlook?

The in-organisation culture and rules will be quite different. What is a 'no-no' there and what is acceptable though it may seem curious to you? How do you deal with culture shock both on arrival and on coming home?

The best volunteer organisations will have information about these potential problems and will reassure and train you before you go so fears are minimised. Some such as Australian Business Volunteers (see ABV at www.abv.org.au/) not only have training courses before you go but make special arrangements for your safety while you are abroad.

In addition they will provide a return airfare, find you reasonable local accommodation as well as giving you a small daily allowance (enough for local meals). In return you must write some reports, but these are simple and straight forward.

Wherever you volunteer, the rewards can change your life for the better. Organisations seeking volunteers can, by careful preparation and forethought, initiate and quickly effect desired changes toward the future.

HERITAGE SITE RECORDS

Blue Mountains City Council has recently sent to the State Heritage Branch, a record of some 800 heritage sites, the list having been compiled by a highly regarded heritage professional consultant way back between 1999 and 2005.

In due course these records will be available to the public on the Heritage Branch's website.

BMACHO has been pressing for a number of years to have these records available to the public.

This would allow for the development of the monitoring program successfully initiated by Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Historical Society Inc.

BOOK REVIEWS

Dr William Bell's **SETTLERS' GUIDE** or **Modern Domestic Medicine and Surgery, Windsor NSW 1849**

"The Settlers' Guide" was advertised in the Maitland Mercury on the November 28, 1849 as "soon to be published", and contained a request for subscribers.

It is remarkable that it took one hundred and sixty years to the day from the original advertisement appearing, to be finally published and launched recently at the Hawkesbury Regional Museum.

It was discovered accidentally by Lois Sabine in a box of uncatalogued Windsor solicitor's papers in the Mitchell Library some years ago. It had been placed with the solicitor as collateral for a loan, but never retrieved.

The Guide has proved to be a fascinating insight into the medical practices of the period.

It is now believed to be unique as being the very first complete medical book written in laymen's terms for Settlers in the Colony.

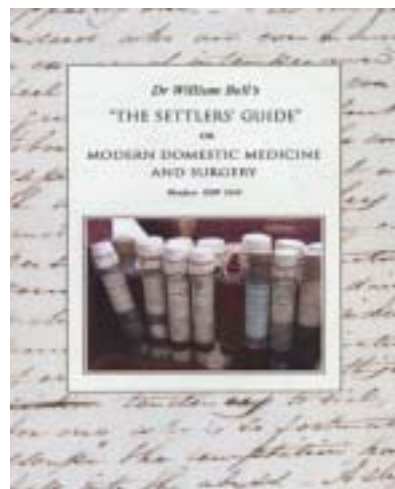
Dr Bell is never boring and uses many examples from his medical practice, some of them quite hair raising.

It is in two parts, the first section devoted to common diseases and their treatment.

This is followed by Forms of Medicine, [please don't try these] and illustrations.

The second part is devoted to ailments of women and children etc.

Now fully transcribed, The "Settlers' Guide", priced at \$30 plus postage and can be obtained from Lois Sabine at Isabine@bigpond.com



The Upper Grose Valley - Bushwalkers Business

Among the greatest panoramic views in the Blue Mountains National Park is that seen of the Grose Valley east of Blackheath.

As the viewer stands on the cliff edge at Govetts Leap the yawning void of space beneath the feet, and stretching to the eastern horizon is one of the wonders of the natural world.

Most visitors seem content to stop, take in this view and then jump back into their transport and mentally tick off another iconic destination. For those visitors who want to explore the vastness of this valley there is now a comprehensive text available.

Committed bushwalkers and co-authors, Michael Keats and Brian Fox have produced a researched

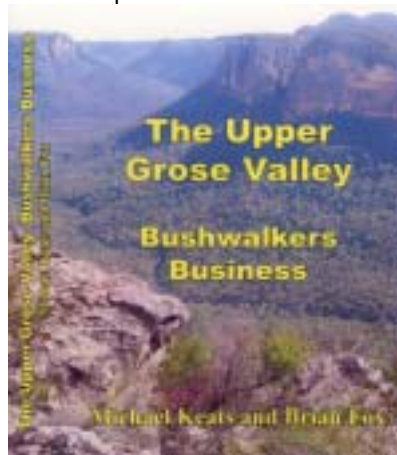
guide to the Upper Grose Valley that will stand the deepest scrutiny.

The text of more than 560 pages includes detailed maps and descriptions of 59 walks; the origin of every place name; European history of the valley since it was first discovered, comprehensive notes on flora and fauna, climate, fires and floods and much more

Illustrated in full colour throughout "The Upper Grose Valley - Bushwalkers Business" is a must have volume for every Blue Mountaineer. A comprehensive index enables rapid retrieval of information about any person or locality connected with the Upper Grose Valley.

Produced in A5 format, the book is compact enough for the backpack but is equally at home on the reference bookshelf as a planning tool. At \$44.50 plus postage and handling this is an investment every bushwalker will want to make. Postage and handling costs: Sydney area \$9.00, NSW \$10.00

Payment by cheque or money order to: Keats Holdings Pty Ltd 33 Livingstone Avenue Pymble, NSW 2073 Tel: 9144 2096 for further details: mjmkeats@easy.com.au and/or Brian Fox Tel: 6332 2590 Brian.Fox@lpma.nsw.gov.au



MACQUARIE ERRED

Caley's Repulse a cairn of stones on the north side of the railway line at Linden known as Caley's Repulse for almost 200 years was erroneously named by Lachlan Macquarie.

The original cairns stood beside Cox's Road. It was sighted by Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson in 1813.

When Macquarie passed by on his way to Bathurst in 1815 he named the area Caley's Repulse in the erroneous belief that the pile of stones had been erected by George Caley the botanist, who made an attempt to cross the Blue Mountains on a route further to the north.

The builder of the original cairn is unknown but it is probably an Aboriginal construction.

The present cairn was made up from scattered stones discovered by members of the Australian Historical Society in 1912 and claimed by them to be the remains of the cairn seen by Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson.

Source: *Places of Historic Interest on the Lower Blue Mountains* published in 1977 by Springwood Historical Society from data provided by the Society's research officer, Allan Searle

\$200,000 grant for Carcoar court house makeover

The historic Carcoar Court House is undergoing a much needed makeover thanks to a grant of \$217,000 from the Federal Government's Jobs Fund.

President of the Carcoar and District Historical Society Inc. John Burke said the village received the funding from the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and Arts because they were "able to demonstrate Community activity and support for the project".

He said the court house built was a rarity because it has most of the original court house furniture and fittings including the furniture in the judge's room.

The funding will cover extensive internal and external work on the building including repairs to the roof, floor and clock tower. Some funds will be used for furniture restoration. The work is expected to be finished by mid 2010.

It was not Carcoar's first court house when on April 27, 1840, Carcoar was proclaimed as a place for the holding of courts of petty sessions. The first court house was actually the police office.

The local justices or police magistrates presided in presumably what was a timber building but within 9 years the district had grown and it became inadequate for court sittings.

The then colonial architect, Mortimer Lewis, was directed to prepare plans and specifications for a new court house and on March 7, 1849 the plans of a court and watch house were approved by Sir Charles Fitzroy.

Tenders for the erection of a court house to be built of brick with a shingle roof were called and that of John Hunter Kirkpatrick was accepted in April 1849.



The accepted tender did not include a watch house it having been dropped in favour of a court house only.

The building was completed in 1850 under the supervision of Edmund Blacket and survived for 30 years.

However, its days were numbered and a new court house was built in 1882 at a cost of four thousand three hundred and eighty pounds.

The new court house was opened on November 10, 1882.

Its Italianate design is indicative of the interest in revival styles at that time. Internally the building contains a fine intact court room with polished cedar joinery and elaborate painted frieze.

It ceased operating as a court house in the late 1950s and in 1994 the Carcoar and District Historical Society took on the trusteeship of the court house and now has its research and archive room situated within the building.

Source: Carcoar and District Historical Society Inc.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER

Welcome to new member the Transport Signal & Communications Museum Inc. at Kurrajong.

The museum has been created by John Cooper who was the founding chairman of the Zig Zag Railway Co-op and his wife Carolynne Cooper when they saw the need and desire to show the public, the behind the scenes, items used by the railways.

Items such as signalling equipment, safe working, tickets, clocks, telephones, badges to name a few all played an intricate part of any railway system.

Formed as a small group of collectors the TSCM was first housed in a leased railway

electrical sub station at Cabramatta.

Since moving the museum to Kurrajong there has been an effort to establish more complex and complete exhibits of particular applications such as the 'safe working' on the Richmond Line and the miniature lever frame

The charter of the Transport Signal and Communications Museum Inc. has been to collect, restore and exhibit as many of these items as possible.

John and Carolynne can be contacted at signalbox@iprimus.com.au

Further information can also be found on website www.tscm.rha-nsw.org.au

‘...for the relief of horses and other dumb animals..’

Horse troughs were a common sight on the roadside in the 19th and early 20th century before motorised transport took over the roads and highway.

They still remain in many towns throughout Australia as a reminder of heritage and times when things were a bit slower and perhaps more peaceful.

Many of the troughs were financed by a trust fund established through the will of George Bills. About 700 troughs were distributed by the trust in Australia and 50 in several other countries.

George and Annis had no children, and following the death of George in 1927, a trust fund was set up, believed to be around 70,000 to 80,000 Australian pounds.

One of the purposes of the trust, as set out in George Bills' will, was to: *"...construct and erect and pay for horse troughs wherever they may be of the opinion that such horse troughs are desirable for the relief of horses and other dumb animals either in Australasia, in the British Islands or in any other part of the world subject to the consent of the proper authorities being obtained."*

Each trough cost 13 Australian pounds (\$26) plus transport and installation. The majority of the troughs were installed in Victoria and NSW between 1930 and 1939.

Initially the troughs were individually designed and constructed, however by the early 1930s, J.B. Phillips, a relative of the Bills, became the head contractor. Working to a standard design he produced the troughs in Hawthorn Victoria.

The troughs were pre-cast concrete with a curved pediment with the inscription "Donated by Annis & George Bills Australia".

Manufacture was subsequently handled by Rocla, who produced troughs to the same design in Victoria and later in Junee, NSW.

With the rise of motorised transport, demand for the troughs declined and production had ceased by the end of World War II.



This Bills horse trough located at Glenbrook has a plaque attached which reads: 'This trough was donated in remembrance of those horses that did not return from the First World War 1914-1918'

Aside from the horse troughs, the trust was involved with other animal welfare projects. George became a life governor of the RSPCA in 1924.

George Bills was born in Brighton, England in 1859. He migrated with his family to New Zealand and subsequently to Echuca, Victoria in 1873.

In 1882 he opened a bird dealers shop in Brisbane, where he met and married Annis Swann who had emigrated from Sheffield, England.

In 1884 the couple moved to Sydney and George Bills went into business with his brothers, manufacturing innerspring mattresses.

In 1908, George retired to Hawthorn, Victoria and in 1910, Annis died while the couple were visiting England.

Story and photograph by John Leary, OAM. Source: 'History of the George and Annis Bills Horse Troughs 1983 - State Library of NSW.'

PROTECTING POSSESSIONS AGAINST BUSHFIRE

The Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material has released an information sheet **STORING COLLECTIONS IN HIGH BUSHFIRE RISK AREAS**, aimed at assisting individuals and those working with cultural collections to reduce the risks of fire when storing their precious possessions.

It is being distributed to arts and cultural heritage organizations, local councils, emergency service providers and the media.

For more details, the information sheet and press release can be found on AICCM's website at www.aiccm.org.au.

Since Black Saturday, most people recognise that fires of a catastrophic degree can cause damage on a scale previously unimagined. However, stories have emerged that some

treasures did survive, even paper items.

While not a guarantee that items will not suffer damage, minimising risk through the storage methods recommended in the information sheet may offer some hope for items that have to be left behind on evacuation.

The AICCM website contains further information about the handling and care of salvaged items, particularly those damaged by fire or water. If you are affected by fires, you should retain damaged keepsakes that are still recognisable, even if damaged and dirty, as they may be salvageable.

Consult a conservator before you throw them away. Conservators can be contacted via the AICCM website or through state and national cultural institutions.

Museums scoured for looted relics

The British Museum has been asked to open its archives to allow Chinese investigators to document 'lost' imperial treasures that China claims were taken from Beijing's Old Summer Palace when it was burned and looted almost 150 years ago.

China has indicated that the intention of the scheme is to document archives, but it is raising fears that Britain and France could be asked to return some treasures.

Researchers are being sent to museums, libraries and private collections in an attempt to build a comprehensive catalogue of artefacts China claims were stolen in 1860 following the Second Opium War.



The pavilion and stone arch are among few of the only remaining buildings in the Old Summer Palace

The Old Summer Palace was sacked by British and French troops as punishment for the torture and execution of 18 emissaries sent by Western powers to Beijing.

The issue remains an emotive subject in China where it is still viewed as one of the nation's great humiliations.

Construction began on the Old Summer Palace in 1707 during the reign of Emperor Kangxi.

It is thought, about 1.5 million relics are housed in more than 2000 museums in 47 countries.

China's sensitivity towards such 'looted' treasures was demonstrated last year when a Chinese collector sabotaged the auctioning of two bronze heads taken from the Old Summer Palace, bidding 13.9 million English pounds then refused to pay.

BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

REGISTERED OFFICE 40 Hume Avenue,
Wentworth Falls 2782

E-mail: bmacho.heritage@gmail.com

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 Inc, Friends of Everglades, Friends of Norman Lindsay Gallery, Glenbrook & District Historical Society Inc, Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society Inc, Lilianfels Blue Mountains Resort, Lithgow Mining Museum Inc, Lithgow Regional Library – Local Studies, Lithgow Small Arms Factory Museum Inc, Mid-Mountains Historical Society Inc, Mid Western Regional Council Library, Mt Tomah Botanic Gardens, Mt Victoria and District Historical Society Inc, Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine History Society Inc (including Turkish Bath Museum), Mudgee Historical Society Inc, 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 Inc, Transport Signal and Communication Museum Inc., Two Centuries of Elegance, Valley Heights Locomotive Depot and Museum, Zig Zag Railway Co-op Ltd. The following are individual members: Wendy Carlson, Ray Christison, Ms Pamela Hubert, Associate Professor Ian Jack, Joan Kent, 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 McMahon-Nolf (treasurer), Jean Arthur, Ray Christison, Lyn Fowler, Doug Knowles, and Dick Morony (public officer), Peter Stanbury.

AUDITOR: Sue McMahon, B Comm CPA

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

HERITAGE is BMACHO's official newsletter.