

HERITAGE

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OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

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STATE GOVERNOR OPENS NEW WING AT HOBBY'S REACH

The Governor of NSW, Professor Marie Bashir, AC, CVO recently officially opened the Sadler Wing at Hobby's Reach Centre, the home of Blue Mountains Historical Society.

Building of the new wing was made possible because of a bequest from the late Geoff Sadler, a former treasurer, membership secretary and public officer with the assistance of ArtsNSW.

The new wing contains Geoff's extensive book collection also gifted to the society.

Speaking at the opening, society president, Graham Warmbath, said: "Now we have a lending library as well as a dedicated research collection and interpretation of historical information.

"Hobby's Reach research centre houses local, personal and business histories, books, photographs, maps and provides information for authors, historians, students and community groups.

"It is open to the public every week of the year and is attended by a research officer and librarian, both volunteers," said Mr Warmbath.

Among the new acquisitions for the society's library are three books published as part of the celebration of 150 years of self-government in NSW.

Pictured is Professor Bashir unveiling a commemorative plaque with former Mayor, Cr Adam Searle in the background.

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Council's Heritage Review of LEP 1991 *by Felicity Blaxland - Senior Strategic Planner, BMCC*

Firstly, I would like to introduce myself as a new team member of the City Planning Branch of Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC) to your organisation and other historical societies in the Blue Mountains who may read this newsletter.

I commenced with council in February this year as a senior strategic planner and have been working in local government for the past 10 years in various positions including both development assessment and strategic planning roles. Since joining BMCC I have become more involved with heritage related projects such as the review of heritage items under

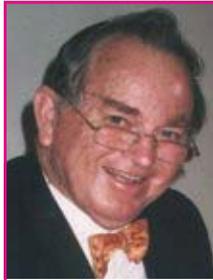
LEP 1991 and the investigations into the formation of a heritage advisory committee.

Council staff have been progressing a heritage review to support a proposed Amendment to LEP 1991. A number of items and conservation areas have been recommended to be listed as having local heritage significance through heritage studies undertaken by Associate Professor Ian Jack and Associates.

Further research on other significant areas has been completed this year by Dr Jim Smith. A grant received from the Heritage Office of the Department of Planning has assisted funding of this work. ***Continued page 12***

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From the president's pen.....

We remember those who were slaughtered in battles planned by stupid generals

War is abhorrent to most decent human beings. Down through the ages there has always been and most probably always will be war.

There should never be any future attempts to glorify war.

However, we must honour those who made the supreme sacrifice on the battlefields, often in foreign lands.

We must also respect the wishes of those loved ones left behind and their descendants who may wish to recognise these heroes and ordinary soldiers with Remembrance services, marches, wreath laying ceremonies and other activities on special days.

This edition of **HERITAGE** features articles about World War 1.

These articles are not so much about the battlefields, but rather about local men who served – some came back and others now lay buried in foreign fields.

These articles are published near to Remembrance Day observed around the world by those nations who participated in this horrific conflict.

Traditionally these services are conducted on the 11th hour, of the 11th month of the year, the Armistice as it was then known having been signed at that time in 1918.

These well researched stories also touch on the anguish of those left behind – mothers, wives and girl friends; the emotions– the pain of separation, the grief of loss and the great joy of reunion.

They touch on the discovery of the mass grave, pinpointed through the research of a Victorian school teacher, Lambis Englezos.

The work of Englezos an amateur historian, was confirmed in 2008 by a team of archaeologists led by Dr Tony Pollard of Glasgow University.

The excavation would later provide a vivid and startling glimpse into the horror of World War 1 as the bodies had been preserved in the same position they were thrown into the mass grave.

World War 1 was a military conflict centered on Europe that began in the summer of 1914. The fighting ended in late 1918.

More than 70 million military personnel, including 60 million Europeans, were mobilised in one of the largest wars in history.

More than 9 million combatants were killed, due largely to great technological advances in firepower without corresponding ones in mobility.

A generation of innocent young men, their heads full of high abstractions like Honour, Glory and Country, went off to war to make the world safe for democracy.

They were slaughtered in stupid battles planned by stupid generals at the behest of egotistical politicians.

Those who survived were shocked, disillusioned and embittered by their war experiences, and saw that their real enemies were not the Germans, but the old men at home who had lied to them.

They rejected the values of the society that had sent them to war, and in doing so separated their own generation from the past and from their cultural inheritance.

Unlike many of its Allies, in World War 1, Australia did not conscript its soldiers to fight in the Great War - all Australian soldiers were volunteers.

It was to be the war to end all wars.

John Leary, OAM
President, Blue Mountains
Association of Cultural Heritage
Organisations Inc.

'Only in Australia can men read their name on a war memorial'



This article is an extract from a presentation by, Arthur Delbridge at the 2007 Remembrance Day memorial service held at the war memorial in Mt Wilson. Arthur is a former president of Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Historical Society and early this year was awarded honorary life membership of that organisation.

Professor Delbridge in 1987 was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in recognition of his service to education particularly in the field of linguistics and as editor-in chief of the Macquarie Dictionary.

The Mt Wilson, Mt Irvine and Bell Soldiers Memorial was erected in Mt Wilson in 1919 and in 2001 two societies the village's Progress and Historical, began a series of services of remembrance.

Mt Wilson resident, Arthur Delbridge, AO presented the addresses for the first years while Alison Halliday is carrying on in Arthur's tradition. The following is an extract from Mr Delbridge's address in 2007.

"I believe it was a response to a feeling shared around the Australian community that war and the other faces of terror were necessarily now bulking larger and more urgently in our consciousness than they had for some time past.

"As a result the national official memorial services in our cities were becoming ever better attended, and the marches more sombre, and overseas the memorial services at ANZAC Cove and many other military cemeteries were attracting more and more visitors, with increasing numbers of young Australians making the long journey to them.

"Possibly also revisitings, especially by old soldiers, to war sites where they had fought and their mates been killed.

"Today I thought I would speak about two of our local soldiers, who did come back when the war was over.

"What effects, if any, did their war experience have on the rest of their lives? Perhaps this is, for them (and for us) an unanswerable question. Maybe no visible effect.

"But I have vivid memories of being taught Latin in high school by a

returned soldier, a notable classical scholar who had been gassed in the Great War.

"He had the most cracked voice, the most awful fits of coughing, the worst temper and the sweetest smile at unexpected moments—he was a post-war wreck physically, a returned soldier who never got over his experience of war.

"Fred Mann and George Valder both came back to Mt Wilson. Both of them could have read their own names on our memorial, and possibly did.

"But Professor Inglis, in *Sacred Places* stated quite firmly that 'Only in Australia could most men, home from the war, read their own names on its memorials'. Elsewhere, especially in Europe memorials were exclusively to the dead and the "missing".

"And in Australia at first that seemed to be right and fair. But then a strong movement emerged in favour of listing also the names of returned soldiers. Sir John Monash, who commanded the Australian divisions in France, declared 'We were all men of one nation—and all volunteers!' That was the key to it.

"Of course not all volunteers were accepted when they had tried to enlist, for either health or occupation reasons. And volunteering didn't necessarily get you into the front line, where most casualties occur.

"Behind the front lines are many lines of command and support essential to any engagement. For example, in WW1, 1800 graduates and undergrads of Sydney University went on active service and 197 of these were killed in action.

"Comparatively a smallish number. But it reflects the fact that a high proportion of those volunteers came from the faculties of medicine and engineering: they were directed to serve where their special skills were needed.

"When in the early 1920s Sydney University began to plan its memorial it was 'for those who have given their lives...as well as for those who have voluntarily engaged in active military or naval service'.

"What the university finished up with for its WW1 memorial was a carillon of 47 bells fitted into its clock tower to be played from a rather special sort of keyboard.

"I could speak at length about the various ways, from that day to this, that the carillon has kept alive the memorial function it was intended to achieve from its first appearance.

"It's enough now to say that its biggest bell weighs 4.2 tons, the smallest bell just a few pounds. A carillonist can play on it virtually any tune or theme, and harmonise it into two or three parts, with bells playing simultaneously. Its principal function is memorial.

"In 1938 I took lessons in playing this great instrument and became a member of the carillon family, a small group of appointed players who between them provided carillon music for occasions in the university year, particularly celebrations of national days of the allied countries of World War 1.

"So there is no limit to the structures that can serve as war memorial, be they hospital, club, park, plaque, pillar or post—or carillon! Inglis says that there are 4000+ war memorials in Australia.

Continued page 4

The Light Horse Interchange

The Australian Light Horse has made a rich and continuing contribution to our sense of national heritage.

Perhaps the latest example of this is the Light Horse Interchange, the point at which the Westlink M7 motorway intersects with the M4, west of Sydney.

Here a great sculpture is revealed to motorists as they flash by at 100 kph: four sets of red steel poles, radiating from a tall central mast, all representing the Australian Light Horse on parade. The red colour of the poles is for sacrifice.

MT WILSON WAR MEMORIAL

Continued from page 3

“Ours [at Mt Wilson] is one of the simplest sort, but none the worse for that. Many of them take the form of utilities — a hospital, a community hall, a church, a sports ground, that could be undertaken in the expectation of getting a government grant in terms of subsidies and tax concessions for the donors.

“But no such thing happened here. The local impetus was from generous gifts of land and material, plus determined community effort. The crucial gift was the piece of land cut off from the Denny estate, given for just this purpose by Flora Mann, the mother of the Fred Mann whose name is with others, engraved on our memorial.”



***Mt Wilson, Mt Irvine & Bell
Soldiers Memorial with Gregson
Memorial Obelisk to the left.***

The steel plumage at the top of each pole represents the emu feathers of the troopers' slouch hat.

The symbolism is rich in detail, even to the significant absence of any figure of a horse, reminding us that quarantine regulations prevented the return of any of the troopers' horses.

But why put the sculpture right here? Research has established the significance of the local area in the history and recruitment and training of light horsemen. In World War II they were based at a major training camp at nearby Wallgrove.

A spokesperson for Conybeare Morrison, designers of the sculpture explained that it is designed “to let people know they are approaching a major intersection but also to



spark their interest so they want to find out more about what the sculpture represents.

Source: *Sydney Morning Herald*, May 2, 2006.

The men who made the last great wartime cavalry charge [Beersheba] were mounted infantry – Australian light horsemen. As “Bushmen” at the Boer War they had won high praise. At Gallipoli, dismounted, they fought gallantly and died tragically... The Australian Light Horseman by Ian Jones

Woodford Academy student survived Beersheba charge

A former Woodford Academy student John Lyons was at the Beersheba charge and survived (see story page 5).

The charge at Beersheba on October 31, 1917 is often reported as ‘the last cavalry charge in history’ although cavalry such as the Polish cavalry continued to exist into the early phases of World War 2 and took place in operations before being rendered obsolete.

The charge at Beersheba took place as part of the Sinai and Palestine campaign during World War 1.

The Australian 4th Light Horse Brigade under Brigadier William Grant charged more than 4 miles at the Turkish trenches, overran them and captured the water wells at Beersheba.

The battle at Beersheba was the critical element of a wider British offensive as the Third Battle of Gaza aimed at breaking the Turkish defences from Gaza on the Mediterranean shore to Beersheba an outpost 30 miles inland.

Earlier in 1917, two previous attempts to breach this line had failed.

Since the earlier failures the British forces in Palestine had undergone a major upheaval with the replacement of General Murray with the distinguished cavalry commander General Allenby.

The Australian force was led by Lieutenant General Sir Harry Chauvel who went on to be one of Australia’s most distinguished soldiers
John Leary, OAM

“The rainy season has begun and the cold cuts us through...”

by Neryl Medcalf

a past volunteer and member of the former Friends of Woodford Academy

The words used in the headlines above were in a letter written on December 12, 1917 from Palestine by Private John Lyons Gray of the 6th Light Horse Regiment to Mrs Edgeworth David of Woodford.¹

John was a former student of Woodford Academy, a private venture boys' boarding school in the Blue Mountains.

He had just survived the battle of Beersheba at not quite 19 years of age, and was one of 48 students from Woodford Academy identified as servicemen during WWI.

Many of those students' names are on the roll of honour that is still displayed over the door to the schoolrooms.

Headmaster John MacManamey accepted boarders at the school from Sydney or from country areas mainly on the Western rail line, while others were day students living in the Blue Mountains.

Some boys intending to become doctors or lawyers came to Woodford Academy to be assisted with Latin or Greek, necessary at the time for Matriculation. Basil Kennedy, a student in 1907, matriculated, became a doctor, joined the Australian Army Medical Corps, served on *Karoola* the Australian hospital ship, then at a field ambulance hospital and by 1918 was senior medical officer with the rank of lieutenant colonel at Hurdcott Military Hospital in England.²

Likewise, Dr George Hay (1907)³ from Katoomba and Sid Rosenthal (1909) - whose family changed their name to Rosebery in 1915⁴ - and medical student William H Ward (1908)⁵ of Springwood who with 5th Field Ambulance served as a stretcher bearer in Egypt and France before returning to Australia and completing his medical studies. Dr Ward also served in WWII. Indeed, at least eleven former students on the roll of honour went on to serve again in WW2.



The Woodford Academy World War 1 Honour Roll restored several years ago and returned to its place above the doorway to the schoolrooms.

There is evidence of army cadet training at Woodford Academy and students were quite aware of the war situation. Corporal Reg Lewin of Katoomba, was killed in action at Lone Pine Gallipoli in August 1915.

Schoolboy Bert Tom from Parkes wrote to his father “ *We saw by the papers that there had been three boys killed from Parkes and several wounded including Russel Watts. Evidently the Parkes boys must have been in that great push in France or Palestine. My word it is time they brought Conscription in isn't it?*”⁶

Alan Giles⁷ (1913) was another boy from Parkes who not only made his mark on the desks of Woodford Academy, but also made his mark as a stretcher bearer on the Western Front at Villers Bretonneux in April 1918 and was awarded a Military Cross for his effort... “*...he dressed and carried wounded continually for four days through extremely heavy shell and machine gun fire,*”

He went on to add a bar to his MC 3 months later at Ville Sur Ancre “*Private Giles volunteered to swim across the river with a dispatch, under an intense artillery and machine gun barrage, returning through the same barrage with an answer...*”

A second Military Cross winner was Fred Brown of Sydney⁸ (1907) who was wounded in France, became a lieutenant served as an intelligence officer, was mentioned in dispatches then won his MC at Amiens in August 1918.



The Military Cross awarded for bravery

Not all the Woodford boys won medals, but many were wounded or killed

Fred Brown's brother, Douglas of 18th Battalion had died of wounds the year before.

A third award winner, Second Lieutenant Robert Murray of Wentworth Falls⁹ (1907), left a copy of his will in his pay book, in which he bequeathed his microscope and five pounds to Keith Faulkner Potts, his mate from Woodford.

Robert won a Military Cross on the Somme in February 1917, but was killed at Messines in June of that year. Keith returned safely to Australia in January 1918.

Other boys whose names appear on the school roll of honour may not have won special medals, but they volunteered and performed their various duties in the army as bombardiers, gunners, bicycle couriers and sappers.

Many were wounded, sometimes twice, some were gassed, many spent time in hospital, some went AWOL, some caught sexually transmitted diseases, and at war's end were discharged on their return to Australia to take up civilian life once more, after serving their country well.

Only one former student, George Shaw, a radio operator in civilian life, is known to have joined the Australian Flying Corps as an air mechanic.

Walter Carroll from Katoomba, private in the 45th Battalion, was returned to Australia early in 1917, having been so affected by the cold and exposure in the trenches that



WOODFORD ACADEMY FOOTBALL TEAM 1909
Back: K Potts, D Stuart, D Kilpatrick, Principal J MacManamey, V Hay, R Peacock, GE Botting.
Middle: B Paravacini, R Howard, S Rosenthal, K Mackey, R Lewin, A Hannam, H Hart.
Front: C Storm, K Bowden, A Harkness, W Ward. (Underlined identified as having enlisted in WW1.)

he was invalided to hospital in England where both of his legs were amputated.¹⁰

'Old Boys' kept in touch with their headmaster sending him photographs of themselves in uniform.

Frank Berry a student in 1910 from out west at Trundle, became a Sapper in the 10th Field Engineers and was one of six former students still able to attend an Old Boys reunion in 1982 at Woodford Academy with Gertrude MacManamey, daughter of their Headmaster.¹¹

John Gray, the letter writer, who survived at Beersheba returned to Australia and joined up once again in WWII - as major, ending his war service in 1947 after a stint in the warmer Pacific waters of Morotai and Balikpapan.¹²

Considering the war experiences of a group of boys who shared some of their schooling in the Blue Mountains in the years before 1914 focuses us on the disruption, adventure, accidents, courage, mateship and the futility and waste of war.

(End notes)

¹Woodford Academy archives, Woodford NSW.

² National Archives of Australia: B2455,7363478.

³ NAA:B2455,4736559.

⁴ WA Archives: Corr.with Mark Maddox, 2005.

⁵ AIF project,UNSW@ADFA2003-2005

⁶ WA Archives,student file: donated by Mr W Tom of Parkes,2003.

⁷ NAA:B2455,5008305

⁸ NAA:B2455,1796303.

⁹ NAA:B2455,7990599.

¹⁰ NAA:B2455,3210405.

¹¹ WA Archives.

¹² NAA:B883,6137452.



An old boys reunion at Woodford Academy in 1982.

Their names are on the honour roll at Glenbrook Primary School

In his book *Comrades in Arms* the late Walter J Venn wrote: "When writing the stories of these 1914 -18 soldiers I have been reminded that the exigencies of the service influence the chance of one's survival. One simple decision at a desk in Sydney could, in some circumstances, result in the degree of a soldier's exposure to danger".

WJ Venn's research provides information about those on a World War 1 honour roll at Glenbrook Public School. The following are extracts from his publication:

Private Alexander Dick – He was assigned to the 19th Battalion. In April and June 1916 the battalion took part in the operations in and around Armentieres.

In July they played a central role in the bloody fighting at Pozieres and later that month in the attacks on Pozieres Heights.

The battalion's casualties during this period were 13 officers and 440 other ranks. Alexander Dick was killed on August 1 and is buried at the Sunken Road Cemetery, Contalmaison, France.

Lieutenant Cecil Beaumont Mills – His unit the 23rd Infantry Battalion took part in a joint raid on enemy lines near Armentieres in late June 1916.

Cecil was killed in action. Some of his personal possessions were recovered the next day and placed in a tin in a nearby trench, but were never seen again.

His body, if ever found, was not identified and his name was included on the long list of casualties suffered by his brigade.

Private Howard Keith Macpherson – A draughtsman in the Land Titles Office, NSW he enlisted in the Australian Army Medical Corps served on the hospital ships *Kanowna*, and *Karoola*, then serving in casualty clearing stations in France before transferring to the Air Flying Corps. He arrived back in Australia in August 1920.



Pictured above, courtesy Australian War Memorial is the church at Villers-Bretonneux which was all but destroyed in fighting on the Western Front.

Private Keith Douglas Robinson – Assigned to the 18th Battalion he joined his unit at Gallipoli on August 16, 1915 suffering a gun shot wound to the head six days later in the battalion's very first operation.

Surviving the wound he was sent to the Western Front, where he reported sick with a carbuncle on his neck. On July 22 he died in No. 14 Stationary Hospital at Boulogne of spinal meningitis.

Corporal Edward Hugh Oprey – He had served his apprenticeship as a blacksmith and was with the NSW Railways Commission at Glenbrook when he enlisted and was assigned to the 6th Light Horse Regiment, training in the Middle East.

Hugh ran foul of the authorities for being out of bounds (twice) and for using threatening language to the sergeant of the guard.

In March 1918 he was attached to the Desert Corps as an acting lance corporal only to be reprimanded again for filling a water bottle from a stream. A common enough practice for any Australian boy, but a No! No! in Egypt.

He was discharged in Sydney in October 1919.

Lieutenant Clarence Hansby Read – Born in 1879 he appears to have joined the Royal Australian navy as a boy in 1897 possibly as a midshipman. He was a lieutenant in the RAN Reserve when he served in the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force in 1914-15. In September 1914 he was in command of the naval detachment at Madang in Kaiser-Wilhelmland (German New Guinea).

In January-February 1915 he was executive officer at Herbertshohe, the former German capital of Nu Pommern (Great Britain) on the Bismarck Archipelago.

In March 1916 he embarked on the HMAT *Ballarat* for the voyage to the Suez Canal where his unit the RAN Bridging Train carried out work in several tugs and lighters for bridge building, building of piers and wharves

For some time he was attached to the 29th Battalion, but rejoined the RAN and appears to have survived the war.

A Springwood soldier laid to rest at Fromelles 94 years later

by Shirley Evans, Springwood Historian

Pamela Smith and I attended the launch of Glenbrook Historical Society's *Comrades in Arms* which was composed of short biographies of Glenbrook men who had served in World War I.

We were inspired to begin researching and writing about the men who were listed on the Springwood District World War I Honor Roll.

This proved to be very much more difficult than we had thought, but in the five years it took to complete the task we became very close to our World War I veterans and mourned those who had died in that dreadful war.

In his introduction to our book, *Remembrance: Springwood District Honor Roll 1914-1919* John Low wrote: "Their research has rescued the men recorded here from the creeping anonymity that would have been their fate and given them back to their community as individuals who lived and breathed their own special human uniqueness."

These men (and they were all men, no women) were certainly to a degree anonymous with the board hung inconspicuously on a side wall in the Springwood Civic Centre, and with many of the men proving quite difficult to identify.

A very few of them bore names we recognised from our research for *The Making of a Mountain Community: a Biographical Dictionary of the Springwood District*, but quite a number we discovered in the *Nepean Times* reports of Springwood in the war years.

One of these names was Ed Hope (proved to be Edward James Hope), born and reared in Kingswood. He was employed by the railway as a fettler at the time of his enlistment and we found that his name appeared on the St Mary's Roll of Honour in Victoria Park and also on the Blue Mountains District War Memorial Hospital, Katoomba.



The last of the exhumed soldiers being carried to his last resting place at Fromelles.

In October, 1915 the *Nepean Times* reported a farewell to new enlistees, J. Reddall and E. Hope. They were both presented with wristlet watches from the Springwood people.

Part way through our research the National Archives of Australia digitised the World War I servicemen's records making it very much easier and less expensive to access and check as they were now available on the internet.

Prior to that, we sometimes wasted time and money purchasing records for the wrong men. With only an initial for the first name shown on the honour roll it was easy to make a mistake.



Private Edward Hope

Edward was one of 17 railway employees on the Springwood Roll

(by far the largest occupation group) and, as a fettler, he must have worked in various parts of the Blue Mountains.

He was born in Kingswood in 1887 and was orphaned in 1898 when his mother, father and infant sister all died within a few months of one another.

A young sister, Florence, and he were presumably cared for by relatives. He named Florence as his next of kin when he enlisted.

Edward was allotted to the 54th Battalion which was predominantly composed of men from NSW. Half of them were Gallipoli veterans .

The new recruits left Australia on the *Aeneas* on December 20, 1915 joining the rest of the battalion at Tel-El-Kebir for training on February 16, 1916.

They embarked on the *Caledonian* for Marseilles in June, fighting their first major battle on July 19, 1916 at Fromelles. They suffered casualties equivalent to 65 per cent of the battalion's fighting strength. It was here that Edward died either on the 19th or 20th. 1,547 British and 5,533 Australians were either killed, wounded, taken prisoner or reported missing. This was Australia's bloodiest day in military history. **Continued page 9**

False hope that brother may not have been killed

Continued from page 8

Florence, Edward's sister, was notified that her brother had been taken prisoner. This information came from a Red Cross communication resulting from information provided by the Germans.

Later the Royal Prussian War Office Medical Section corrected this and Florence was informed of Ed's death and probable burial in the neighbourhood of Fromelles.

Florence, like many grieving and bereaved relatives wrote to the Army Base Records in Melbourne:

Dear Sir -

My brother No 4188 Private Edward James Hope, 54th Batt. Is Officially reported to have been Killed in Action on July 20th (previously reported missing) – He was my nearest Relative and if you could forward me some details of the manner of his Death I would be grateful.

& Oblige

Miss F.M. Hope

Kingswood

Nr Penrith

N.S.Wales

The Australian Red Cross Society endeavoured to record eye-witness accounts of deaths and woundings and Private J. Freehan, 4775 recorded the following at Etaples on November 4, 1916: "Hope was of my Co.[company] He was seen killed by several of the Co. who reported the fact at roll-call in my hearing."

Early in 1917 the "effects" of Edward Hope were sent to Florence. They consisted of a wrist watch and cover. She wrote the following to the Officer in Charge, Base Records:

Dear Sir –

In connection with the wrist watch forwarded to me as Next-of-Kin to the Late 4188 Pte E.J. Hope 54th Battalion I have to inform you that this watch did not belong to my Brother – He had a Presentation silver wrist watch with his name inscribed on back. The one I received was a gunmetal. I managed to clean some of the rust off the back of watch – it has an inscription not very distinct, but plain enough for me to see that it belongs elsewhere. I will forward this watch to you per post.

I was so disappointed to get the wrong watch and having received nothing at all up to the present time.

Yours faithfully,

F.M. Hope (Miss)

Kingswood

Via Penrith

N. S. Wales

It was very important to the wives, parents and siblings to receive something of their loved ones back from the war – something personal, not just an official medal. We can assume that Edward's "Presentation silver wrist watch" was the one presented to him at Springwood at the time of his enlistment.

Florence was required to confirm that she was Edward's closest living relative before she received his medals and that seemed to be that.

However, in 2009 through the efforts of descendants of Fromelles soldiers lost in the battle, and with the support of the British and Australian governments and the encouragement of the French, a massive initiative began to investigate known burial trenches at Fromelles and exhume the remains of British and Australian troops, identify them by modern scientific methods and rebury them in a special military cemetery.

The Sydney Morning Herald published photographs of the first 85 diggers identified in the Weekend Edition, November 7 - 8, 2009 and Private Edward Hope was one of these. The last of these exhumed soldiers, one who had not been identified, was buried on July 19, 2010.

His remains were transported in a gun carriage drawn by horses and accompanied by military personnel, Australia's Governor General, Quentin Bryce, and Britain's Prince Charles, both of whom delivered moving addresses.

But the most moving were the short addresses given by descendants of those fallen British and Australian soldiers.

They read letters very similar to those written by Florence Hope, expressing the fears and wishes of both the soldiers and those who waited at home.

There has not been universal approval of the reburial of men buried in mass graves at battle sites.

In *The Sydney Morning Herald*, February 5, 2010, Neil McDonald, historian and film critic, stated that "Exhuming and reintering the war dead in more 'suitable' sites always risks distorting history". But I feel that still grieving relatives will gain great comfort from knowing that their lost loved ones have been laid reverently to rest in a beautiful place, close to where they can be visited and remembered.

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ONE MAN'S DEDICATION

Determined to honour those who died on that faraway battlefield, 94 years ago, the Melbourne teacher and amateur historian, Lambis Englezos, AM set out to research documents and records of authorities around the world.

But little has been said or written about Lambis Englezos, AM whose tenacity saw him go public with his theory of a missing mass Allied grave. The Fromelles story began to emerge from the fog of history in 2002 when Englezos went public with his theory. Evidence from German archives, documenting such a burial ground, convinced Australian authorities a search was worthwhile.

It is one of the darkest, most heroic days in Australian history. Yet it barely rates a mention in our history books.

... **John Leary, OAM**

Two Woodford brothers killed

Curiosity has lead Woodford residents of 10 years, Rhonda and Terry Flowers to research details of the four soldiers listed as killed in World War 1 on the Woodford War Memorial and *HERITAGE* thanks them for the following contribution.

“During the past ten years we became aware of a structure marooned between the railway line and the Great Western Highway at Woodford.

“We were curious but never seemed to find the time to inspect the site.

“As the juggernaut of the current highway widening was imminent we were afraid that the structure might disappear forever before we could discover what was its purpose.

“Our motivation to visit the site was curiosity and we were more than surprised to find the structure was a war memorial initially constructed by Thomas Thomas and others of the village of Woodford as a commemoration.”

On the east face of the memorial we found the following names of those who died IN World War 1: CH Dakin, C Fiddling, J Fiddling and IJ Wheeler.

In *The Sydney Morning Herald* Saturday, August 25, 1916 under the heading MEMORIAL SERVICE AT WOODFORD the following appeared:

The memorial service for the brothers Privates Jack and Charles Fiddling, sons of Mr and Mrs W Fiddling, of Woodford, was held in the grounds of the Woodford Red Cross Convalescent Home recently, about 200 being present.

Every town from Katoomba to



Valley Heights was represented. The service was conducted by the Rev EC Robison, of Wentworth Falls. Captain Chaplain Parker read the lesson, and Captain McKoan, a returned wounded soldier, who has



Woodford War Memorial - To those who for King and Empire enlisted from this village for service in the Great War 1914 - 1919.

been fighting at ANZAC, Beauchope Hill, Fisherman's Hut, Suvla Bay, and Hill 60, the farthest point reached by the expedition, performed the ceremony of unveiling the Woodford roll of honour.'

The Australian War Memorial website reveals that Private John Fiddling (Jack) was killed in action on June 6, 1916 and his brother Private Charles Fiddling died of wounds in France the following month July 19, 1916.

Private John Fiddling is buried in France, 83 Brewery Orchard Cemetery Bois-Grenier.

Private Charles Fiddling is buried France, 768 Estaires Communal Cemetery.

Lieutenant Clarence Herbert was killed in action on April 14, 1917 near Noreuil, France and was buried where he fell. No trace of his gravesite has been found and he is commemorated on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France.

Private John Edward Wheeler was killed in action October 5, 1916 and is buried Belgium 127 Railway Dugouts Burial Ground (Transport Farm) Lillebeke.

Private John Edward Wheeler brothers Stanley and Frederick also served in WW1 but returned.

In *The Sydney Morning Herald* on Thursday, May 3, 1917 the following appeared:

A cablegram has been received stating that Lieutenant Clarence Herbert Dakin has been killed in France.

The deceased was the only son of Captain H. Dakin, secretary of the National Rifle Association of N SW (NRA), who is at present engaged in the Riverina enrolling recruits for the NRA. 150 unit of reinforcements, which he proposed to take to the front.

The young officer, who was 22 years old, enlisted as a private two years ago, saw service at Gallipoli, and won his commission in France.'

“In all there are over twenty names of those who served in WW1 recorded on Woodford War Memorial. They are not just names.

“They were once the living youth of the tiny village of Woodford who worked in dairies and orchards and walked the same streets we walk today.

“In researching each name, on the Woodford War Memorial, through the National Archives of Australia, National Library of Australia online newspapers and the Australian War Memorial we hope to ensure that if one day Woodford War Memorial is destroyed by an ever widening highway the names of the youths of Woodford who served in WW1 are never lost,” Rhonda and Terry said.

More than just an old building

By John Low

Travelling by train, I've always enjoyed charting the progress of my journey to and from the flat lands by the familiar natural and historical landmarks along the way.

In recent times, however, under the relentless 'up-grade' of the Great Western Highway, the familiar has been subjected to serious disturbance. Demolition, removal and erasure have muddied meaning and context, often beyond retrieval, and it has all been very disturbing.

Decisions to alter the historical landscape, no matter what benefits may result, always bring loss. Lawson especially has been affected, losing almost completely its old commercial centre and all the intangible associations these old shops had with the village and people who worked and lived there.

This is not a matter to be taken lightly. Buildings, even largely uncelebrated ones, become part of a place and when they die more than just the bricks and mortar dies with them. I think it was John Ruskin who, speaking of old buildings, said something to the effect 'that we may be able to live without them but we can't remember without them.'

Many of us would probably feel we can live without such an old and outwardly unprepossessing building as that which bore the name of Macbrair and, until recently, accommodated several shops on the highway opposite Lawson Railway Station.

Yet, while its plain, commercially functional design may not be cause for architectural excitement, I do regret its passing and when my train pulls in to Lawson I feel its absence.

As its façade proudly declared, the building was built in 1923 for Lawrence Macbrair, a successful businessman who, following the First World War in which his two younger sons were killed, sold up his interests in North Queensland and came south with his grief.

In Lawson he found solace and a renewed zest for life through



The Macbrair Building a plain, commercially functional design which may not be cause for architectural excitement now a victim of the Great Western Highway road widening.

business and community service, being elected with a large vote to the Blue Mountains Shire Council in 1922 and purchasing that same year the block of vacant land fronting the highway.

Interestingly, when the land came into his possession it appears to have not been completely empty for the council rate books of the day record it as "vacant land and ruin". This "ruin" adds an extra layer of historical meaning that links the site to the earliest days of the town.

The recorded history of the place we know today as Lawson began on Thursday, May 20, 1813 when three gentleman farmers turned explorers – Gregory Blaxland, William Lawson and William Charles Wentworth – accompanied by four assistants, three horses and five dogs, "... encamped at 12 o'clock at the head of a swamp of about three acres covered with rushy coarse grass with water running through the middle of it."

"The horses", wrote Blaxland, "by necessity lived on the coarse swamp grass or rush. Nothing else could be got for them".

It was as a source of water and feed that 'Christmas Swamp' (so named by Surveyor-General John Oxley in 1817, probably because of a local profusion of native Christmas Bells),

became one of the principal stopping places for travelers and stock using the road that was constructed across the Blue Mountains in the wake of the 1813 expedition.

As these watering places began to be named according to their distances from the Nepean River, Christmas Swamp became '24 Mile Hollow' and from the late 1820s an illegal 'hut' servicing the needs of weary travelers prospered for a number of years.

When legal inn-keepers, Henry and Sarah Wilson, formerly of the Scotch Thistle Inn at Blackheath and the Welcome Inn at The Valley near Springwood, acquired a 100 acre portion of land at 24 Mile Hollow in 1843 they built a permanent hostelry and were granted a license to operate under the sign of 'Blue Mountain'.

Such early inns became landmarks along the Western Road that measured the progress of a journey and the Blue Mountain Inn became well known to travelers.

Indeed, the location of 24 Mile Hollow was soon being referred to as 'Blue Mountain', a name it retained until the town that later evolved became Lawson in 1879.

Continued page 12

'The Blue Mountains Parrot' a popular local identity

Continued from page 11

The building itself survived until 1917 and was located in what is now the playground of the public school.

For a period in the 1850s and 1860s the Wilson family leased their inn at Blue Mountain and lived elsewhere but, astute business people that they were, returned when the Western Railway line arrived in 1867 and a small platform was constructed a short distance away.

Within a few years (1875) they had built another inn closer to the platform, transferring both the license and the 'Blue Mountain' name. It was located on the block later purchased by Laurence Macbrair.

Unlike most of the Western Road inns, the Blue Mountain prospered in association with the railway. Trains stopped opposite to take on water and passengers were glad of the opportunity for refreshments while they waited.

The Wilson's youngest daughter Adelaide would be waiting on the station to welcome them and suggest a walk across the road to the inn or the purchase of coffee, tea and sandwiches from her stall on the platform.

She became a popular local identity, known to all as "the Blue Mountain Parrot". Whether this related to her verbal facility or colourful dress I'm not sure!

Her brother Affriat, who lived in the de-licensed inn up the road, also attracted attention as a naturalist, being especially skilled in the capture and handling of snakes. His clients included a number of museums.

On Henry Wilson's death in 1880 the inn's license passed to Sarah who subsequently transferred it to a new Blue Mountain Hotel built next door by the end of the decade.

The 1875 inn ceased to trade and its condition gradually deteriorated. It was eventually demolished in 1906, though the rate book entry quoted earlier suggests that something at least, perhaps its

foundations, still survived when the land was acquired by Macbrair in 1922.

Described by the local newspaper in 1923 as "one of the town's finest", the new building sadly was not long in Macbrair's hands. Aged 74, he passed away in 1925 and was mourned by the town in which, his obituary recorded, "he displayed so much practical faith".

The plain, business-like architecture of the Macbrair Building spoke of more than just small town commerce and its demolition removes another 'footprint' leading back to connect us with our past.

A plaque on a 'heritage' sandstone plinth can never be more than a makeshift recognition of what has gone but, done properly, it can preserve the significance of a site and alert passers-by to the layers of community memory that exist there.

While other lost Lawson buildings equally deserve their stories to be told in this way, I hope some such marker will eventually be erected where the Wilsons and Laurence Macbrair (and many others) did business all those years ago.

Note: While no referencing for quotes etc. has been included this can be supplied on request.

Council's Heritage Review

Continued from page 1

Council staff are currently working with council's heritage advisor, Christo Aitken, to complete information required to inform this heritage review.

The proposed Draft LEP Amendment will comprise three main elements being the deletion of some items from the LEP Schedule 2 (due to the fact that they are no longer considered to hold heritage significance); insertion of new items into the LEP Schedule 2 as supported by the heritage studies; and consolidation of separate sites into conservation areas in key areas such as Mt York.

The new items proposed to be listed in the Draft LEP Amendment include private residential houses, historic monuments and items of heritage significance located in natural areas such as historic walking tracks. Further details regarding the precise nature of all proposed heritage items will be provided to historical societies by council in due course.

Initially council staff will be consulting with land owners on the information developed to support the proposed listing of sites to seek their support. This includes private land owners (a small number), and state government agencies. A number of council owned and /or managed areas are also proposed for heritage listing.

Council staff will then be consulting with the various historical societies of the Blue Mountains on the proposed heritage items under the review.

A workshop will be scheduled in due course to be held at council to inform all historical societies of the review process and what input the historical societies may wish to contribute to this process. Once a date and time for the workshop are set, invitations will be forwarded to historical societies.

The extent of the review is currently limited to areas identified under LEP 1991 and does not include areas covered under LEP 2005 (main village and town areas). A review of heritage items located in LEP 2005 will be undertaken in the future, after progression of the Review of LEP 1991 items.

The Draft LEP Amendment for heritage is currently being undertaken as part of the new Part 3 'Gateway' process. The city planning team is currently working with the Department of Planning in progressing this LEP through the required planning process.

I look forward to working with the various historical societies on this heritage project. Should you require any further information on the heritage review, I am available on Mon- Wed on (02) 4780 5774 or email fblaxland@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

The Cambodian exhibition

Hurry, Hurry, Hurry, No Time to Lose

By Peter Stanbury, OAM, Phd.

Force of circumstances is a powerful master. It sometimes happens that normal planning is not an option and an exhibition needs to be up and running in an impossibly short time. How to do it?

Faced with such a situation one needs confidence and a list of logical steps. The confidence is necessary to give others confidence and the list of logical steps enables one to delete a step or two without causing undue panic.

I recently undertook five weeks voluntary work at the National Museum of Cambodia. The work was arranged through Australian Business Volunteers, an organisation in Canberra that provides opportunities for Australians to exchange skills in developing Asian countries. The volunteer contributes time and expertise, the organisation contributes the airfare, accommodation and \$20 per day for subsistence. For more details please see [www.abv.org.au/.](http://www.abv.org.au/)

I was expecting in early July to change some textiles that had been on display for too long, to advise on suitable storage space for some recent donations and to discuss health and safety issues. I had it all worked out - a leisurely, informative month away from the usual routine and winter weather back in Australia

On arrival in Phnom Penh the assignment suddenly changed: please would I set up an exhibition of temple hangings (*pidans*).

But not just yet, because all staff were busy on an international travelling exhibition that was due to open in three weeks – all staff would be busy with that so there would be only a week or so to set up the temple hangings before the exhibition was to open at the end of the month.

And as there was no money left, consequently funds would need to be found. And another thing, staff had been working so hard on the major exhibition, some would be on



Advertise your exhibition outside the Museum.

leave immediately after and only a limited few would be available for the second exhibition.

So there were three weeks to plan and find funds (no staff to help) and one week (with some limited help) to refurbish the exhibition space, physically mount the exhibition, arrange publicity and have an opening.

Pidan means ceiling in Khmer. Complex pictorial woven silk textiles, often depicting scenes in the life of the Buddha, are hung or painted above or near the principal Buddha of a temple, hence the ceiling reference.

Pidans are never worn but are designed and woven to demonstrate skill and to acquire merit by the donation.

They require months to weave and were becoming rare even before the Pol Pot regime destroyed much tradition. Very gradually NGOs and others are trying to re-aquaint weavers with the necessary skills to weave and market both wearable silk goods and items of religious or traditional significance.

I was very lucky to find a Japanese group of friends of an NGO that were prepared to invest around \$1,000 in the exhibition.

The rest of the preparation time was spent planning.

It is important to plan because without a written plan it is difficult to determine which items can be omitted at a moment's notice because of resource limitations (time, availability, funding).

I hope my list of notes may be of use to others planning in a similar hurry. Don't expect to be able to do everything on the list, but at least recognise that you are skipping some items rather than forgetting them.

Items to be exhibited

Availability
Size and shape
Group compatible items
Hanging or display mechanism
Conservation requirements

Room

Hanging or display context
Security
Does room need repainting?
Lighting

Arrangement of items and scope of story

How best to tell the story
Placement of primary labels
Secondary labels
Take away information leaflets
Brochure or booklet
Posters, handouts, banner
Will you need carpet or arrows to direct visitors?

Continued page 14

The Cambodian exhibition

Continued from page 13

Research

What is the main idea behind the exhibition?
 Who has told a similar story and how?
 Research and writing
 Focus of exhibition (in the room and visitors)
 Contact those who may be able to contribute and invite participation

Education

Does the exhibition relate to primary, secondary tertiary studies?
 Can the exhibition be related to special interest groups?
 Is written program for such groups appropriate?
 Advise groups; invite participation

Opening

Who will open – firm commitment?
 Who will be invited?
 Speeches: MC, director, opener
 Refreshments
 Gift for opener
 Gift for guests (good publicity)
 Invitation lists and mail out
 Source tables, glasses, plates, cups, napkins for opening

Publicity

Prepare photographs and press release
 Local press and radio (photographs/gift/novelty angle)
 National press and electronic media (photographs/gift/novelty angle)
 Local inhabitants, similar institutions
 Free 'what's on' listings
 Posters
 Banner outside museum

Actual work

Clean space
 Hang or mount objects
 Mount and carefully position labels
 Sort lighting (remember conservation issues)
 Ring or visit journalists
 Position / distribute posters
 Hang banner
 Buy flowers and food for opening

Day before

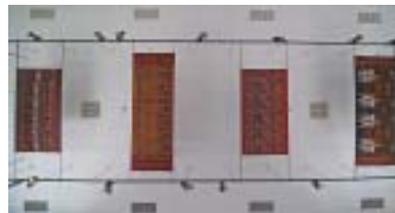
Arrange microphone
 Wrap present for opener
 Double check labels
 Remind journalists
 Ask director and opener if they require anything
 Arrange cleaning of area

Two hours before

Check entrance to museum
 Check museum
 Check director and opener
 Check exhibition, flowers, food
 Change into appropriate clothes
 If raining have umbrellas, towels, receptacles for wet gear handy
 Calm others involved in the exhibition and allow them time to get dressed.



Explain how your objects are made or arrived at the museum.



As pidans are often found on the ceiling, we used the ceiling for display as well as the walls.



Explain the exhibition to children and devise activities.

The author

Dr Peter Stanbury, OAM (pictured at right) who last month returned from Cambodia 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 awarded the ABV's annual Altruism Award for 2009.



Mediterranean diet for World Heritage List!!!

There is a tendency to only think of heritage buildings, wilderness areas, magnificent landscapes, ancient castles, Greek temples and monoliths such as Egypt's pyramids when one thinks of UNESCO's World Heritage List.

But the World Heritage List includes sites ranging from the birthplace of Buddha to the Tower of London and lesser-known list of "intangible" cultural heritage covering oral

traditions, performing arts, social practice, rituals rock art and festivals.

Among other nominations, a submission from the Italians is being considered for listing this year of the Mediterranean diet, with its mix of fresh fruit and vegetables, grilled fish and lashings of olive oil favoured in Greece, Italy and Spain.
Guardian News & Media

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER SOON TO CELEBRATE 25 YEARS EXISTENCE

The Lithgow and District Family History Society Inc. which will celebrate its 25th anniversary next year is the latest group to join BMACHO.

President of the society, Eleanor Martin said the group was established in 1986 to allow local people and others to research their family lines and to learn their family stories.

The society of volunteers has established a library, now situated at the Corner of Tank and Union Streets to store the extensive resources of local cemetery records, local and family histories, journals from international and

national sources, many photographs, copies of Governments Gazettes and local newspapers as well as IGAs and Birth, Death and Marriage records on CDs, Fiche and reels. Convict, shipping, immigration and census records are also held.

Social gatherings and bus trips to cemeteries and archives as well as workshops and seminars are arranged to assist people to research and store their information, source identification and display their family trees.

Some records are available for sale upon request and the society

produces a Journal "Lithgow Pioneer Press" three times a year.

Researchers can attend the library during open hours and receive assistance to work through the extensive indexes of much of the resources for a small fee. Open times are every Friday 10am - 4pm. Tuesday 6pm - 9pm and first Saturday 10am - 4pm of each month except January

Contact number is (02) 6353 1089 during open hours e-mail: ldfhs@lisp.com.au website <http://www.lisp.com.au/~ldfhs> P.O. Box 516 Lithgow NSW. 2790

Vale -- Hugh Manners Bickford (1927-2010)

Sadly, long-time member and public officer of Blue Mountains Historical Society Inc., Hugh Bickford, passed away in Katoomba Hospital September 13, 2010; he was aged 83.

Hugh was cremated at Leura on September 21, 2010 and the Blue Mountains Historical Society was strongly represented at the funeral service.

Condolences were extended to his wife Janet, who is well known to many, and to his sons Mike and Tim and their families.

Hugh had a long and distinguished career working for CSR, latterly as property manager and company valuer, and after retirement in 1986 he was asked to return as a consultant which he did for a further decade.

In 1984, while Hugh and Janet lived in West Pymble, they purchased land at Wentworth Falls – the property adjacent to Hobby's Reach and a home was built which they then used as a weekender.

In 1988 they changed the location of their Sydney residence to Pennant Hills, but in 1996, after Hugh's second retirement, they moved permanently to Wentworth Falls.

In the mountains, Hugh was active in the Wentworth Falls Probus Club becoming president as he also was for the Wentworth Falls Autumn Garden Festival.

But in recent years it has been the restoration of his treasured veteran Austin car that has consumed much of his time, that vehicle having been opportunistically acquired for the second time after a long period in the hands of another motorist.

Of his own accord, from 1986 Hugh kindly started to mow the lower slopes of Hobby's Reach, initially with a hand mower but from 1988 using a ride-on mower which he even drove until he suffered a stroke earlier this year.

However it was not until 2001 that he joined the Blue Mountains Historical Society, becoming a member of the management committee in 2004 and then president for two years between 2005 and 2007.

In 2008 he became the public officer and in August that year he was awarded an honorary life membership of the society.

For many years Hugh informally acted as a caretaker, responding to sudden activations of the security

lighting and being available to admit tradesmen.

Hugh was the speaker in July 2001 when his topic was "The Wreck of the *Admella*", an event which occurred in 1859; the gist of his talk was reported in *Hobby's Outreach* (Aug/Sept. 2001, p.4).

Two years later, in June 2003, Hugh addressed the society on the subject of "Cockatoo Island Dockyard Wartime Industrial Role" being a place which he had visited frequently whilst his father was in charge of Cockatoo Island.

Hugh was a softly spoken person with a wealth of knowledge which he willingly shared with others. He was a most delightful gentleman whom all shall miss greatly.

Contributed by Peter Rickwood.
Text approved by Mrs Janet Bickford.

Kung fu heritage

Shaolin temple, the Buddhist monastery that is also the birthplace of Chinese kung fu, has been added to the United Nations' list of World Heritage sites

UNESCO has named historical monuments near Dengfeng city including the Shaolin.

Doug Knowles elected to lead Glenbrook Historical Society.....

The new president of Glenbrook and District Historical Society Inc., Doug Knowles can claim that his association with Glenbrook could be said to start back in 1924 more than a decade before he was born.

His grandmother, Vera Dare came to Glenbrook on a holiday in 1924 and later purchased land and a cottage in the town.

However, Doug did not come to Glenbrook until 1946 when his parents built a new house in the mountains village.

He started his schooling at Glenbrook Primary School and went on to finish his secondary education at Hurlstone Agricultural High School, Glenfield before taking up an apprenticeship to Hazelwood's Nursery at Epping.

Completing his apprenticeship he soon found there was plenty of work in landscape construction and green keeping in the Lower Blue Mountains. In his spare time he did general cartage including bags of flour from the Glenbrook Railway Station to McCall's bakery.

Doug recalls, "clearing and lopping trees in the 1950s which provided lots of firewood which he sold for £3/10/- per ton for stove wood [people still cooked on fuel stoves in those days]."

Doug also recalls that in 1957 trees to the north of the Glenbrook Bowling Club (established a few years earlier) were casting shadows on the turf bowling greens.

As a horticulturist, he was contracted to lop the trees and settled his account when insufficient funds were available by accepting debentures in the club. He claims to be possibly the only person to have debentures in the club and not be a member.

In 1976, needing more space for his nursery at Glenbrook he purchased a 5 acre block at Valley Heights, selling his Glenbrook property ending 50 years association with the village of Glenbrook

After being involved in landscape construction for about 30 years, he made a career change accepting a job with TAFE, teaching horticultural skills including plant propagation, plant recognition and botany. Doug says this was probably the most rewarding and interesting 20 years leading up to his retirement.

Doug says he has always been interested in local history and joined the Glenbrook and District Historical Society about 8 years ago.

"I especially enjoy the society's regular 'Walks & Talks' to historic sites in Glenbrook and relating the places and events to the individuals involved; many of the people having children, grandchildren or great grandchildren living in the area.

"The society is currently negotiating with Caltex management to secure community use of the Pointsman's Cottage," Mr Knowles said.



The Pointsman's Cottage - Photograph by John Leary, OAM



Doug Knowles

"The property would be an ideal venue to stage exhibitions such as the display of railway heritage photographs. Many of the society's photographs are from the Nolan family collection and were taken before 1920.

"The society is also currently promoting Whitton Park as the 'village green' and fighting off attempts to have the land fenced for selective group use."

Doug Knowles takes over the presidency of Glenbrook and District Historical Society from Tim Miers who has held the position since the society was formed during the Glenbrook Primary School centenary in 1992.

Doug is also a management committee member of the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations Inc.

HISTORY OF LAWSON HALL SHOULD NOT BE IGNORED

Mid Mountains Historical Society Inc. has written to Blue Mountains City Council expressing the strong opinion that the past history of the Old Community Hall at Lawson must not be ignored when determining its future.

In her letter, society president Nance Cooper stated it becomes evident that for the major part of its history since its opening in 1903, it has been a centre for community activities.

"There had been 98 years of vigorous community life before its

function was narrowed for approximately 3 years to that of a youth centre before its regrettable closure in 2004.

"The closure of the hall deprived societies and community groups such as the Mid Mountains Historical Society of an important conference venue.

"It has been impossible, for example, for this society to take a part in the annual History Week conducted by the History Council of NSW," said Nance Cooper.

Honorary life membership for two at Mt Wilson



Pictured are Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society president, Des Barrett, honorary life member, Arthur Delbridge, AO and vice president, Darrell Conybeare. Pictured below is Bruce Wright who now lives in West Australia and was unable to be at the presentation.



Bruce Wright

Arthur Delbridge, AO and Bruce White were honoured at a recent annual general meeting of the Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine historical Society.

Darrell Conybeare was on hand to present Arthur with his framed certificate.

The citation for Arthur stated: *In recognition and appreciation of his many years and dedicated support for the founding and continued development of the society*

His leadership and direction over several years set the society's standing in the community, ensured the preservation of significant heritage sites and established regular avenues for wide distribution of historical information.

Bruce Wright was not able to be at the meeting to receive his award.

In his absence research officer, Mary Reynolds spoke warmly of Bruce's many contributions to the development of the society and the Turkish Bath Museum over the society's first 10 years.

The citation on Bruce's certificate stated: *In recognition and appreciation of his many years of dedicated support for the restoration and establishment of the Turkish Bath Museum.*

His professional skill and commitment to archaeological research and development at the Turkish Bath building and precinct and to the administration of the society in the early years were invaluable.

Professor Reynolds takes leave

Professor Barrie Reynolds who at the annual general meeting earlier this year stood down from the position of secretary, a position he has held since BMACHO was formed, has taken 6 months leave from the organisation until the end of March 2011.

This follows his hospitalisation last month for emergency surgery. Barrie has asked that he not be contacted concerning BMACHO matters until he returns from leave.

He had accepted an executive role on BMACHO's management committee and was involved in a number of new initiatives at the time of his illness.

The idea of BMACHO was conceived by Barrie and enthusiastically embraced by those who attended the 2004 Blue Mountains Local History Conference at the Carrington Hotel in Katoomba at which he was stressing the importance of having a cultural heritage strategy for the city.

Barrie has had the ability to gather around him individuals, both professional and amateur as well as heritage organisations to provide a voice for cultural heritage and to encourage and assist cultural heritage activities of member organisations.

Barrie has worked tirelessly for the recognition of cultural heritage; it has been the motivation, contagious enthusiasm, academic expertise and professional acumen displayed by Barrie that has driven much of what has been achieved by BMACHO in its formative years.

Members of BMACHO will wish Barrie a speedy recovery and will respect his wish not to be contacted concerning BMACHO matters until he returns from leave.

GLEN DAVIS *The shale oil ghost town of National Oil Pty Ltd. Glen Davis and its people*

Renowned mining historian and former Glen Davis resident Leonie Knapman has launched her much awaited history of Glen Davis.

Leonie lived at Glen Davis in the Blue Mountains from 1940 until it was auctioned off and removed by 1954.

Leonie has presented papers on the history of the township to groups and mining conferences around Australia, Tasmania, and in 2010 Greymouth in New Zealand.

After leaving Glen Davis in December 1954 Leonie thought often of the first 14 years of her life spent in the beautiful Capertee Valley and the thousands of people who lived and worked in the town.

Most of the hard times of the town's residents passed over the heads of their children and it was after researching the history of Glen Davis to write a book that Leonie appreciated their frustrations. Families were coming out of the depression into a wartime situation and a life of rationing of petrol, tyres, food and clothing. This was further compounded by drought followed by almost 30 floods.

Leonie looked at what makes people choose the mining life and live in remote areas foregoing the comforts of life in the larger towns or cities.

Men came from all walks of life searching for work and not all were familiar with the physical grind of the mining industry and its drawbacks.

While the Glen Davis works was partly a response to the unemployment of the depression years of the 1930s the works took on a greater significance with the onset of war when the vulnerability of Australia's oil supplies was clearly demonstrated. After the war Glen Davis was living on borrowed time.

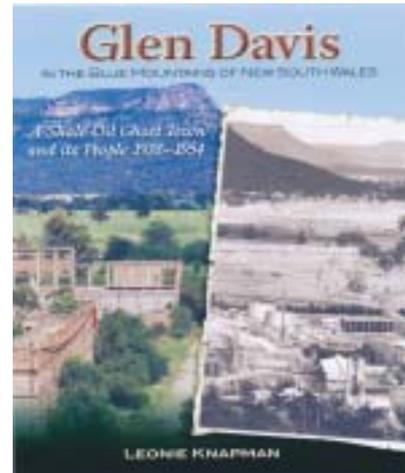
When the government mooted closure of the company it sparked state wide controversy and workers took matters into their own hands. On the night of June 12, 1952 fifty two miners began a stay-down strike lasting 26 days. It was the longest stay in strike in Australian history.

In spite of the efforts of the Commonwealth authorities to shut down the retorts they mysteriously kept working to prevent their dismantling. The authorities removed the power fuses to force the retorts out of action but they were replaced just as quickly and shale for the retorts seemed to appear from nowhere.

The day the strike ended was an emotional one. A large crowd of families and visiting miners waited as the men emerged on electric loco hauled transports. Unfortunately their efforts and discomfort were in vain.

The closure still took place. It was the last straw for the residents who thought their homes and jobs were secure.

Today, over 50 years later, the valley has returned to farming and grazing



as it had been since the 1800s, a far cry from the turbulent fourteen years of National Oil Pty Ltd.

Glen Davis has been stripped of its town status. It is as if the government had tried to wipe it off the face of the earth.

Book launched at Irish gaol



Lord Mayor of Cork, Michael O'Connell, Suzanne Voytas, Christina Henri, Roses from the Heart and Australian Ambassador to Ireland, Bruce Davis at the launch.

Blue Mountains Family History Society president, researcher and author, Suzanne Voytas has recently returned from Ireland, where her book *Elizabeth 1828, the worst and most turbulent* was launched at Cork City Gaol.

The book details the lives of the 194 Irish convict women, who together with 16 of their children were transported on the ship *Elizabeth*, which sailed from Cobb, County Cork on August 28, 1827.

The biographies of the women, detail their achievements, their struggles to live in a foreign land and to be part of a new social structure while raising their colony children.

Copies of the book can be obtained from Suzanne Voytas, details on the website: www.elizabeth1828.com RRP \$35 plus \$10 postage.

Elevating the emancipist ...

While Macquarie believed in the punishment of convicts he also believed in their reformation.

He saw no reason why emancipists (convicts who had served their time or been pardoned) should not be readmitted to their former rank in society if they were of good character and standing.

In fact he came to the conclusion that some of the most meritorious and public-spirited men in the colony were emancipists.

In adopting this radical policy he appointed emancipists to positions of authority and trust and even invited them to dine with him at Government House.

Although receiving qualified support from Lord Bathurst, the new Secretary of State for the Colonies, he aroused the hostility of a group of influential landholders and military officers.

Known as the exclusives, they believed convicts, even when emancipated, had no place in respectable society and to readmit them would upset the existing social order

The rising number of pardons by the Governor, and his injunction to magistrates to limit flogging as much as possible, increased their alarm.

So scandalised were the officers of the 46th Regiment that they entered a pact not to fraternise with anyone who had arrived in the colony under sentence of transportation.

Macquarie would not back down.

In 1813 he told Lord Bathurst that while most of the free settlers would undoubtedly prefer never to admit emancipists to equality with themselves, it was after all a convict colony and if they were too proud to associate with convicts they should move to another country.¹



The first to benefit from Macquarie's liberal measures were Simeon Lord and Andrew Thompson whom he made magistrates in 1810.

Others included William Redfern who was made assistant principal surgeon, James Meehan, who became acting surveyor and Isaac Nichols who was appointed superintendent of convicts. Extract from *The Governor. Lachlan Macquarie 1810 to 1821*, a State Library of NSW publication. ISBN 0 7313 7203 4.

¹ Macquarie to Bathurst, 28 June 1813, *Historical Records of Australia* 1/7, p.775

BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

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THE ORGANISATION Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Organisations Inc. (BMACHO) was established in April 2006 following a unanimous response to a proposal from Professor 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.

HERITAGE is BMACHO's official newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP The following organisations are members of BMACHO: Blue Mountains City Library, Blue Mountains Cultural Heritage Centre, Blue Mountains Historical Society Inc., Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc., Blue Mountains Tourism Limited, Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute, Cudgegong Museums Group Inc., Everglades Historic House & Gardens, Friends of Norman Lindsay Gallery, Glenbrook & District Historical Society Inc., Kurrabung-Comleroy Historical Society Inc, Lilianfels Blue Mountains Resort, Lithgow and District Family History Society Inc., 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., The Darnell Collection Pty Ltd, Valley Heights Locomotive Depot and Museum, Zig Zag Railway Co-op Ltd. The following are individual members: Ray Christison, Associate Professor Ian Jack, Joan Kent, John Leary OAM, John Low, Ian Milliss, Professor Barrie Reynolds, and Dr Peter Stanbury OAM.

COMMITTEE The committee for 2010-11 is: John Leary (president), Ian Jack (vice president), Jan Koperberg (secretary), Kathie McMahon-Nolf (treasurer), Jean Arthur, Joan Kent, Doug Knowles, Dick Morony (public officer), Barrie Reynolds and Peter Stanbury.

HONORARY AUDITOR: Sue McMahon, B Comm CPA.

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