

HERITAGE

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OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

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A tower all that remains of San Jose

Standing like the remnants of a medieval European watchtower from which a feudal lord could check his domain or watch for the menace of a Saracen attack, the tower on land off San Jose Avenue, Lawson conjures up many ideas as to what the original owner might have been thinking when it was constructed. *HERITAGE* is grateful to John Merriman, Local Studies Librarian, Blue Mountains City Library for the following article.

The original building with its three floor levels and tower was constructed in 1879 and named "San Jose", by Joseph (Jose) Guillermo Hay, an official in the Lands Department, who had received a grant of 300 acres at Lawson the previous year.

In the 1880s Hay took advantage of the Blue Mountains' new and growing reputation as a health and recreation retreat, and by 1882 the name "San Jose" had the words "The Blue Mountains Sanatorium" added to it and described in a local guidebook as "the best for private

OAM FOR MARY REYNOLDS

On Australia Day 2011 Mary Reynolds was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia.

Mary is a well-known and highly respected researcher and writer of the history of her own communities of Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine, and also maintains a keen interest in the heritage of the wider Blue Mountains region.

When she and her husband Ellis came to live in Mt Wilson in 1986, Mary soon became involved as a volunteer with the Woodford Academy and also with Norman Lindsay Gallery.
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San Jose tower which when attached to a three storey building became Stratford Girls School. Photograph by John Leary, OAM. February 2010

families" and "with grounds laid out with romantic paths in all directions".

In 1889 Hay applied for a publican's licence for the property then known as "Hay's Family Hotel", described as having fourteen rooms for public use.

During the 1890s the property was acquired by John Ralston who ran it as a guesthouse known as "The Palace" for the next two decades until, in 1919, it eventually took the name and function for which it is best known.

The original Stratford School was founded in Lawson in 1915 by Miss Edith Townsend Wiles who began classes with six pupils in a rented cottage named Tahlia, on the Bathurst Road as the highway was then known.

By 1919 the old cottage was "bursting at the seams" and a move became imperative. The school made the move across the highway and railway line taking the name "Stratford School for Girls" with it.

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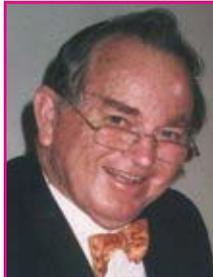
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From the president's pen.....
Humbug and delay in way of heritage advisory committee

For almost 5 years BMACHO has been attempting to have Blue Mountains City Council reestablish a heritage advisory committee, something many would think would be a simple task.

The humbug and delay at best could be described as a frustration, while the more conspiracy minded might think council and its staff have something to hide; of which there is no obvious evidence.

Many local government units in NSW and in fact around Australia have established this type of committee which draws upon the expertise of both academics/professionals and that of volunteers in historical societies and heritage groups in the community.

The purpose of such a committee is to advise council on all matters pertaining to the heritage of this city and to promote awareness and understanding of the heritage of the region.

A fairly simple but potentially a very valuable committee to a council; particularly one such as the Blue Mountains City Council with something like 1100 heritage sites in addition to having within its municipal boundaries the UNESCO listed Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

It is prudent for council staff to examine committee models operating in other local government areas and there is some reason to believe that local staff might have higher priorities, but surely a responsible council must give heritage some status in the community fabric.

And indeed there are many areas in council's administration where it obviously places a high regard on the heritage and history of the people it serves. Further evidence can be found in the actions of former deputy mayor Janet Mays supported by Greens councillors when they successfully moved that the possibility of re-establishing a heritage advisory committee be investigated back in June last year.

Eventually a report must come to council for decision, but it will be a disgrace if as seems likely, this is a watered down version. Other councils can find both the necessary resources to service and also see such a committee as a useful adjunct to its professional services. A committee with no real tasks, meeting as infrequently as four times a year, will not encourage those in the community to share the wealth of knowledge that exists and could be available to Blue Mountains City Council.

BMACHO's proposal is not for the creation of some watchdog that keeps an eye on council and its staff. It is simply to see the utilisation of the great wealth of knowledge of heritage matters which abounds in the community. Already some in the heritage sector have walked away from the proposal because of the delays and frustration and if there is not some real progress in the future others are likely to do the same. Let's not squander yet another opportunity.

Thanks for the experience

As some will know, I will after 5 years at the helm, step down from the presidency of BMACHO later this month, due to ill health. I take this opportunity to thank so many who have worked with me to achieve the objectives of this organisation. There have been some real achievements and a few frustrations, but what we have done to promote heritage and to bring together like minded bodies to share ideas has been most worthwhile.

I thank everyone for the courtesies they have extended to Nanette and I over these past years – it really has been a wonderful and rewarding experience working for our heritage. The new friendships I have gained in this period will be cherished. Thank you one and all.

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

Sanatorium became Stratford Girls School

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In 1924 Miss Wiles and her sister, who was also a member of staff, purchased the building from the Ralston estate and were then able to make additions and alterations to accommodate the school.

When Miss Wiles died in 1930, the enrolment was 49 girls of which 31 were boarders, five girls sat for the intermediate certificate exam and two girls sat the leaving certificate.

Control then passed to the Stratford School Council and subsequently, in 1936, to the Church of England, and the school entered its heyday as "Stratford Church of England School for Girls".

"The development of capable Christian gentlewomen in an exceptionally healthy, bracing and invigorating climate" - that was the promise of Stratford School, to prospective students and parents in the 1940s-50s.

According to a 1950s school prospectus, boarders at Stratford enjoyed an atmosphere of individuality and co-operation. Pupils were "fitted for practical business", whilst encouraged to regard life from the stand-point of high ideals and to further their studies at university.

Stratford's curriculum, extending from primary to leaving certificate, included scripture, English, history, geography, French, Latin, mathematics, physiology, biology, business principles, book-keeping, art, handicrafts and speech training. Music and singing also featured as an important part of school life and students could choose to sit for Australian Music Examinations Board grade exams.

The girls wore an attractive grey uniform, but jewelry was strictly forbidden, with the gracious exception of the school badge and a wrist watch.

Money was also controlled, with all funds going to a pocket money account. Statements on expenditure for outings, church collections and incidentals were issued to parents.



Stratford ruins after the fire, photographed by Neil Billington(1983) for Blue Mountains City Library.

There were three school terms, each 13 weeks long, though the girls were allowed one weekend mid-term to visit relations or friends. Travel to and from Sydney for vacations and mid-term holidays, was always supervised by a mistress from the school.

During term, visitors were allowed, by arrangement with the headmistress, but no student could accept invitations without written permission from her parents. Non-vacation weekends were devoted to healthy activities and visits to places of interest in the district.

As with most Blue Mountains boarding schools of the era, great emphasis was placed on fresh air, healthy diet and wholesome activities. The dining room menu boasted copious quantities of fresh fruits and vegetables, home-made jams and preserves and plenty of milk. Prospectus photographs showed bright, healthy young ladies, poised with grace and decorum in the dining room, clearly enjoying their healthy, wholesome meal.

Recreation was also high on the list at Stratford with tennis, netball, vigaro and swimming at the nearby Lawson Pool offered to all pupils.

The girls were accommodated in bedrooms for two and four boarders and there is also mention of a fine glassed-in balcony with an eastern aspect which appears to have housed a few beds as well.

During the winter, swimming lessons were abandoned and wood fires were lit in the assembly hall and classrooms.

Stratford girls, unlike their counterparts at Osborne College, Blackheath, were also afforded the privilege of a hot water service.

The prospectus makes no mention of students' academic records, but in the early 1950s, following a report by the Department of Education; the school was reduced to intermediate certificate level.

The 1957 fees brochure shows that the leaving certificate had been reinstated and announced the launch of a building fund to raise £5,000 for the erection of new and modern classrooms and to "gain help for Stratford to develop along modern lines."

Two coaches from the Lawn Tennis Association had joined the staff to provide coaching to pupils for which a fee of £2.10.0 per term was charged.

It appears however that all this was unsuccessful, so with the buildings and furniture run down, changing trends in education and competition from public schools and other private schools such as Blue Mountains Grammar at Wentworth Falls - Stratford finally closed in 1961.

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Fire guts 1879 Lawson building

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In 1966, the building was sold to a Sydney couple, who refurbished the interior to house wedding receptions, dinners and private parties.

The establishment lasted until the late 1970s, when in 1977, the Blue Mountains Community School moved in with 18 students, a new teacher and government grants for a library and mini-bus.

By 1980, the building was owned by brothers Lionel and Vivian Coleman of Sydney, but there would be no more tenants for Stratford.

On June 4, 1980, as the result of an electrical fault, the building was gutted by fire.

Today, the only reminder of Stratford's former glory is a large stenciled sign on the building's tower, the rest has gone.

The remains of the building, except for the tower section, were demolished by a developer in the early 1990s.

No further move has been made, at the time of writing, to develop the site, which is listed on the local heritage register.

Stratford at Tahlia and the Japanese Cherry Tree

In 1915 the first home of the school was the rented cottage Narbethong on Bathurst Road, then until 1919 at a house named Krawaree, later known as Tahlia House, situated near the Lawson Community Hall.

In 2008 Tahlia was threatened by road widening plans for Lawson and was re-sited back from the highway alignment by the RTA. While the school occupied Tahlia, in 1916, Woodford resident Toranosuki Kitamura, manager of Kinematsu (Australia) Ltd, imported a



Yedoensis flowering cherry tree which he planted at the school as a token of respect for the high quality of education his three daughters, Jean, Una and Beth had received.

The tree thrived for many years but due to its age and poor health could not be moved to make way for traffic.

However over 100 young trees were successfully propagated from cuttings which are to be incorporated into landscape plans for the new highway and town centre.

In 2002 a farewell ceremony for the old cherry tree was organised by a former Stratford student from the 1940s, Mrs Kathleen Hooke nee Barwick, and attended by the Japanese Consul General, the Mayor and the Member for Blue Mountains, local councillors and the grandchildren of Mr Kitamura.

References

Stratford School Headmistresses', notes by Kathleen Hooke, 2000.

Stratford Prospectus, Anglican Diocese of Sydney, c.1950.

Stratford Girls School – Local Studies clippings file, Blue Mountains City Library.

Note, July 2010: Kathleen Hooke (nee Barwick) died in October 2009 having published her memoirs of Stratford as: Hooke K.H. (2008) *Blue Mountains Heritage and Nostalgia including Stratford Church of England School for Girls, Lawson and Memoirs*. Self published, Kathleen H Hooke, 2008, Printed by Cliff Lewis Printing, Sydney. 585pp. Thanks to Brian Fox for this reference.

John Merriman, Local Studies Librarian
© Blue Mountains City Library 2009

About the author

John Merriman is a professional librarian who manages the Local Studies Service and its research collection at Blue Mountains City Library.

His role involves acquiring, preserving and making accessible documentary evidence relevant to the Blue Mountains region.

This includes the historical, natural and built environments as well as the social, economic, political and cultural aspects of the community.

John's special area of interest is Blue Mountains pre-history and archaeology, in which he holds a degree from the University of New England.

He also manages the library's online image collection of several thousand photographs and writes a Local Studies blog on which this article is based.



Glenbrook Walks and Talks

March 26 – The Mountains Murders – Lee Weller's grave.

April 23 – Lennox Bridge, Mitchell's Pass and rock falls.

May 28 – The Duck Hole, Glenbrook Creek.

Further information Doug 4751 3275 or Tim 4739 2384.

“Is heritage still relevant to today’s community?”

“Is heritage relevant to today’s community?” is the title of an address to be delivered by Maisy Stapleton at BMACHO’s annual general meeting this month.

The meeting to be held on Saturday, March 19, 2011 will commence at 2.30pm.

The guest speaker Ms Stapleton, who is the deputy director, National Trust of Australia (NSW) will also speak on the grants and assistance program of the Museums and Galleries organisation and also mention the annual regional inspection and advisory program.

The National Trust-owned property Everglades, at Leura, one of Australia’s foremost cold climate gardens and arboretum will be the venue for BMACHO’s 6th annual general meeting.

Maisy Stapleton has over 30 years experience working in cultural organisations.



Those attending the meeting may inspect the Everglades Gardens



Everglades Historic House



Her first job in the sector was curator of Elizabeth Bay House. Previous roles have included heading Regional Arts NSW, tourism, business and community relations development with the City of Sydney.

She has undertaken project management roles at the State Library of NSW, within a corporate exhibitions and museum development organisation and at the Australian Bicentennial Authority.

In 1988 she was the Commissioner of a pavilion at Expo 88 which featured the Captain James Cook collection from the National

Maritime Museum in Greenwich, UK. She has also served on the board of the National Trust of Australia (NSW).

Maisy has a first class honours degree in Architecture and a Master of Business with a focus on marketing and maintains her interest in architectural heritage.

Seahorse fountain spouting

Norman Lindsay Sea Horse Fountain is once again spouting water and delighting visitors.

The centrepiece of the garden at the National Trust Norman Lindsay Gallery needed extensive work to repair damage from tree roots.

An appeal raised the money for the work which also involved waterproofing the pond, re-plumbing and the installation of a root barrier to prevent future damage.

The fountain was built by Lindsay in the mid-1940s when he found the town water would finally reach the property.

He constructed the original statuary of mermaids, fish and a plunging ‘sea-horse’ from cement. Lindsay was so enthusiastic about his work that the fountain had water before the house was connected to the supply.

During the 1988 bicentennial celebrations the cement statuary was removed and replaced with the bronze casting seen today. Lindsay’s original is preserved in the gallery.

Since the property opened in 1973 the fountain has become an ‘unofficial’ symbol. *Blue Mountains Gazette*

More talks with BM Council on heritage advisory committee

BMACHO last month had further talks with staff of Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC) continuing negotiations initiated almost 5 years ago by BMACHO to see reestablished a heritage advisory committee of council.

In the latest round of talks council invited historical societies and heritage groups to consult with staff about a review of listed items under Local Environmental Plan 1991 and the investigation of the establishment of a heritage advisory committee.

BMACHO was represented at this meeting by its president John Leary, OAM, vice president Associate Professor Ian Jack, secretary Jan Koperberg, Dr Peter Stanbury and Dick Morony

BMACHO has previously discussed with council staff and individual councillors the objectives of its proposal for a heritage advisory committee and after what was considered to be a long history of unsatisfactory progress, accepted the offer last June, of then deputy mayor Janet Mays and Greens councillors to move in council for a report on the establishment of a heritage advisory committee.

The staff response to this successful motion by Cr Mays was to bring back to council another report that a report would be presented to council by the end of February 2011. The latest round of talks is in response to this undertaking by staff to the elected representatives of council.

Having discussed the staff draft proposal which was released in January 2011, BMACHO's management committee concluded that subject to some minor changes and clarification it could accept the staff's 7 objectives which in principle were not unlike those which have been proposed by BMACHO for many years.

BMACHO's representatives went away from last month's meeting with council staff under the

impression that the amended 7 objectives would form the basis of the forthcoming report to council.

However, BMACHO 's delegation told staff at the recent meeting that BMACHO was concerned that despite staff asking for assistance in reviewing the LEP 1991 it had failed to list as a role of the proposed committee, the BMACHO suggested objective — "to advise council in relation to reviews of local heritage listings".

BMACHO is also concerned that staff appear opposed to another of BMACHO's proposed roles – "to advise council on heritage matters relating to development applications" a function which is included in the NSW Planning Department Guidelines and also seen as a committee role by numerous other councils through NSW.

Other matters which are of concern to BMACHO are the proposed frequency of meetings (once every 3 months); the restriction which would preclude committee members other than councillors being elected as chair and deputy chair and the omission of BMACHO's suggested role of advising council in relation to long term planning of significant heritage cemeteries sites.

ASSISTANCE FOR REVIEW OF LEP 1991

BMACHO went into the meeting with the view that it was at a loss to understand why there is any further need for review of the LEP 1991 particularly in view of the fact that the community at large and particularly most historical societies believe the necessary process has been carried out and any further review delays a plan first initiated some 20 years ago.

BMACHO before supporting BMCC staff proposals needs to be satisfied as to why it is necessary at this stage to seek public involvement, when LEP 1991 has gone on public exhibition from October 16 to November 13, 2002.

Members of the public responded. It is understood that the relevant council officer of the day (Elton Menday) invited the heritage consultant to comment on these responses as this was part of his brief.

It is further understood that these comments were considered, some being welcomed others for which the consultant found powerful arguments against their incorporation in the LEP being rejected.

It appears at least some of the information provided has not been included in LEP 1991.

From these inferences, BMACHO cannot find an arguable reason for revisiting the process in a different form. BMACHO also considers that if there is to be any further review of LEP 1991 it needs to take into account the expertise of heritage professionals under proper contractual arrangements.

BMACHO having been advised by council staff at last month's meeting of some reasons for the need of another review will discuss this information at its March management committee meeting.

Council's staff in response to a question at the meeting from BMACHO president, John Leary said it seems likely that 2013 could be an achievable date for Gazettal of LEP 1991.

Interested in looking after money?

Then we have the job for you.
BMACHO is looking for a treasurer.

For more information or nomination form contact either John Leary 4758 8584 or Jan Koperberg 4754 3275

Forests, timber and milling in Mt Irvine and (later Mt Wilson) in the Northern Blue Mountains or the Carmarthen Hills

by Mary Reynolds, OAM - Research
Officer, Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine
Historical Society Inc.



This mountain and Mt Wilson along with Mt Tomah, Mt Banks and Mt Hay and others are especially distinguished as they are capped with a basalt rock producing a rich volcanic soil.

From this soil and the climatic conditions grew a rich and temperate rainforest covering these mountains along with magnificent Eucalypts.

European settlement came late to Mt Wilson c. 1875-6 and Mt Irvine c. 1897. These settlers were confronted with 'an impenetrable bush' or Brush as it was called.

The temperate rain forest on Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine contained in its pristine state Doryphora sassafras, Coachwood, Black wood or Acacia melanoxylon, Quintinia siberia or Possum wood, the Lilly Pilly and many Tree ferns ranging from the Todea barbara or king fern to the Dicksonia antarctica or soft tree fern and beneath them a forest floor of many others.

Above the rain forest on the heights of the mountains were the giant Eucalypts.

There were differences between Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine where the Turpentine and the Angophora grew while in Mt Wilson there were giant Eucalyptus: The Eucalyptus oreades or Blue Mountain ash: Eucalyptus fastigata or brown barrel, a stringy bark; Eucalyptus cypellocarpa a mountain gum or yellow gum and Eucalyptus viminalis ribbon gum, manna gum or white gum to name a few.

In 1868 when ES Wyndham surveyed Mt Wilson he wrote later that he found no sign of human influence or impact.

When Richard Wynne one of the original purchasers of land during 1875 - 6 arrived to establish a small



A glimpse of the forest in Mt Wilson c 1875¹

Gothic cottage on Portions 36 and 37 he is said to have found some timber cut.

The assumption was made that the construction of the railway which had reached Mt Victoria in 1868 and had now moved across the Darling Causeway to Bowenfels via the Zig Zag in 1869 railway builders and workers had found their way to Mt Wilson via the track created by Wyndham to Mt Wilson.

It is said that Richard Wynne cut notches in the cut timber to prevent its use as sleepers. Today those notched planks are visible in the small Gothic Cottage on Wynstay.

For the birth of a timber industry Mt Irvine is of deeper interest. Timber milling in Mt Wilson did not commence until after World War 1.

Mt Irvine's European history took place in 1897, 20 years after the settlement of Mt Wilson, when three young men from Hawkesbury Agricultural College on the advice of Charles Robert Scrivener, NSW metropolitan staff surveyor and father of one of the young men, Charles Scrivener told them to lay claim to this mountain.

Charles Robert had recently surveyed the mountain and the ridge linking it with Mt Wilson. Deeply impressed by the richness of vegetation and soil C.R.Scrivener had failed to persuade the NSW Government to declare it a National Reserve.³

Hence his advice to his son, Charles and his two friends, Harold Morley and Basil Knight Brown.

They were able after incredible energy and privations to gain the land they wanted about 1,000 acres in July, 1897.

Relying on the memories of Harold Morley written in 1950 we can create an outline of how timber played a role in their rugged, harsh early lives in this remote place.⁴

Charles Robert Scrivener had intended starting a saw mill and making a road to transport the timber.

But promotion altered that as he became a district surveyor and later chief of survey to the Commonwealth surveying the site that was to become Canberra.

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Eucalypts rising 200ft in remote areas

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Already the removal of timber from the land was a mammoth task for all three young men.

"The first clearing we did was grubbing out the trees.

"This was entirely a terrific job, involving cutting up and stacking huge piles of logs."⁵

Harold Morley had giant Eucalypts, Turpentines with Sassafras in between on his clearing."

Some of the trees were 200 feet, requiring holes 24 feet across and 6 feet deep to grub them while the roots were like big logs running out yards from the trunk.

It is little wonder when the sawmill plan did not eventuate that Basil Knight Brown, the other young adventurer advertised the need for a sawmill so that the land could be cleared for orcharding.

Anderson Brothers of Coonamble took up the offer driving their outfit from The Pilliga to Mt Irvine in 1904.⁷

The first mill was established below Basil Knight Brown's clearing known as 'Painui'.

It was described as a big place with a shingle roof".⁸

The saw mill brought some helpful changes to their lives providing cheap timber and the opportunity to sell logs although they were only paid 1 shilling per 100 feet.

They also obtained fruit cases for 5 pennies each when the fruit came along.

Before the fruit trees came into bearing potatoes and onions were grown between the trees and sold to stores in Lithgow, Bathurst and Mudgee.

John Anderson and his wife Amelia lived in a small cabin with their young family close to the mill.

About 1908 a fierce bushfire started and roared across the Knight Brown property showering sparks and burning fragments onto the mill.

Amelia Anderson tried desperately to save the mill but her own cabin caught alight and she and her children were saved by Miss Bessie Knight Brown.

A new mill was constructed below 'Taihoa' on the creek [Russell Creek] while John Anderson built another cabin near the gate of 'Taihoa' for the family.

The mill operated it seems quite successfully until the second decade of the 20th century.

In 1911 it appears that John

Anderson turned his attention to Bilpin for he

purchased Portion 23 there and built a home known as 'Woodleigh'⁹ where he and Amelia were to live for the next 30 years.

Nevertheless he maintained some interest in Mt Irvine returning there from time to time.

His daughter Bessie, wrote many years later that her father had decided that 'No more trees should be taken and that the forest left [in Mt Irvine] should be allowed to grow.'¹⁰

According to 'Mt Irvine A History' Anderson's mill closed in 1914



Harold Morley on the right and CR Scrivener on the left at the base of a large Eucalypt c 1896.⁶

when mill employees enlisted for World War 1. It was probably not quite as simple as that reason suggests for John Anderson, returned to Mt Irvine to work after moving to Bilpin.¹¹

Charles Robert Scrivener retired in 1915 from his position in Canberra as Commonwealth Director of Surveying, building the unusual and charming 'Taihoa' at Mt Irvine from local timber.

His younger sons Pedder and Tom had returned from service in World War 1.

To provide them with employment he discussed with John Anderson the idea of setting up a mill.

" My father told him that the forest needed ten or fifteen more years of growth before milling could be viable."¹²

In 1918 Charles R. Scrivener set up a mill below 'Taihoa' for his sons, Pedder and Tom. John Anderson perhaps reluctantly, entered into a contract to cut and haul logs to the mill. **Continued page 9**

Tallest tree

The tallest reliably documented tree ever measured was the Thorpdale Tree, a Mountain Ash (*Eucalyptus regnans*) growing at Thorpdale in Victoria.

The tree was measured at 112.8m (370 feet) standing and 114.3m (375 feet) on the ground after it was felled in 1884.

Turpentines used on Sydney wharves

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Three cottages were built on the road near the mill. Timber for building and for fruit cases was milled.

The Turpentine, a very strong and hardy timber was sent to Sydney for piers for the wharves. A separate shed produced broom handles and pegs from Sassafras logs.¹³

When the new home of Colonel R.O.Wynne and Marianne Wynne was being constructed at Wynstay 1921-1923 much of the timber came from Mt Irvine, particularly the Blackwood.¹⁴

It was not long after that the mill was burnt down and was not restored.



A sketch of the Scrivener Mill which came originally from the Home Journal.¹⁵

Endnotes

¹ From Eccleston Du Faur Photo Collection Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Historical Society Inc Archives.

² From Mt Irvine A History by the Mt Irvine Community 1990s

³ Mt Irvine A History published privately by members of the Mt Irvine community

⁴ Irvineholme by Harold Morley unpublished 1950

⁵ Ibid

⁶ From Helen Morley, daughter of Harold Morley

⁷ Mt Irvine A History

⁸ Irvineholme by Harold Morley The saw mill

⁹ Bilpin, The Apple Country A local History by Meredyth Hungerford

¹⁰ Decline of A Rainforest by Bessie Bramsen in Eco News 1992 Newsletter of the Lower Blue Mts Conservation Society

¹¹ Bilpin, The Apple Country A Local History by Meredyth Hungerford

¹² Decline of A Rainforest Eco News Lower Blue Mts. Conservation Society 1992 Bessie Bramsen

¹³ Mt Irvine A History 1990s

¹⁴ Wynne Collection in the archives Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine History. Society Inc.

¹⁵ A copy is in the Mt Irvine Photo Collection Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society Inc.

Mary developed a vision for a museum

Continued from page 1

Mary made many friends through these endeavours at Woodford Academy and Norman Lindsay Gallery. By 1993 she was becoming recognised in her local community as a much needed researcher and writer on European settlement in Mt Wilson and the surrounding district.

Through months of discussion with the owners of Wynstay Mary developed a vision for a museum of local history to be set up in the Turkish Bath and remained the driving force behind the establishment of the museum and the Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Historical Society, incorporated in 1996.

It is mainly thanks to Mary's dedication and skills that the local society is active, well supported and recognised as an important source of information and reference material on local heritage.



On hearing of this recent award, many people in the community expressed the view that we are lucky to have her, and we heartily agree!

Pictured above Mary and Ellis Reynolds.

Contributed by Florence Smart for the Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society Inc.

Trust award for Norman Lindsay stalwart

Long time hard working chairperson of the Friends of Norman Lindsay Gallery and Museum, Debbie Handley has received the National Trust of Australia (NSW) Commendation award.

Mrs Handley has received the award for her work fundraising and organising events such as the annual Jazz in the Gardens in February and the Jazz and Wine Festival in May.

The award recognises her work as chairperson of the Friends of Norman Lindsay Gallery and Museum and as a member of the NLG Advisory committee.

Pictured is NLG manager Amanda Trevillion presenting on



behalf of the Trust the award to Debbie Handley (right of picture).

Photograph by Bronwyn Mansfield

Lincoln Hall to speak at Norman Lindsay

Famed mountain climber and author, Lincoln Hall will speak about his amazing adventures at an adult literary evening at Norman Lindsay Gallery on Saturday, April 2.

'Cartoon Dave' Hackett will also talk about his life as a cartoonist.

The evening will commence at 7pm with drinks, followed by anecdotes and then questions and answers with the guest speakers and concluding with coffee and canapes.

Cost \$30 per person or \$25 National Trust members. Bookings essential 4751 1067.

On Sunday, April 3 Norman Lindsay Gallery will host the Festival of Children's Literature with talks by well known children's book authors and illustrators.

The program will include Duncan Bell, David Legge, Frances Watts and 'Cartoon Dave' Hackett. Stalls, book signings, story telling and entertainment and plenty of food.

Enquiries 4751 1067.
Tickets 4784 3832 Gifts n Things.

WALK THROUGH DARK'S COMMON

Blue Mountains Branch of the National Trust is conducting a walk through Dark's Common along the route of the Construction Tramway that was used to transport men and materials to the edge of the Glenbrook Gorge for the duplication of the railway completed in 1912.

This is an easy walk down an interesting bit of Glenbrook history capped off by spectacular views of Glenbrook Gorge.

Included is tea, coffee and bikkies at the end of the walk all for a cost of \$5. Those interested should bring walking shoes to Lapstone Public School car park for a 9am start on May 15.

NEW NAME FOR GARDEN

Mount Tomah Botanic Garden since March 1 is now known as the Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mount Tomah.

The Royal Botanic Garden and Domain Trust executive director, Dr Tim Entwisle said the change of name retains the link with Mount Tomah while highlighting the location of the garden and its role in conserving and growing native garden plants of the Blue Mountains

"We recently opened the World Heritage Exhibition Centre and this name change reflects our commitments to this unique and

important part of the world," Dr Entwisle said.

During March and April, the Blue Mountains Botanic Garden at Mount Tomah will be part of the first annual *Sydney Morning Herald* Autumn of the Arts festival across all three Sydney region botanic gardens.

To open the two-month celebration of the arts, the garden will stage Garden Grooves, an afternoon jazz concert on Saturday, March 5.

For more information contact 4767 3019 or visit www.autumnofthearts.com.au

COX'S ROAD WALK

The Blue Mountains Branch of National Trust is organising its annual Cox's Road walk for Saturday, April 30.

The walk is from Mt York to Hartley Vale down the road constructed by William Cox and his band of convicts in 1814 - 15.

There are some excellent relics to be seen, the result of hard work and ingenuity which enabled the first settlers to move from the confines

of Sydney basin to the western plains of NSW.

The walk being down hill is not particularly difficult but it is steep in parts and walkers need good strong footwear.

There will be a hearty lunch at the bottom and a bus to take walkers back to Mt York. Cost \$30 adults, children \$15, families \$75. Enquiries to Rhona Leach 4757 2424

Lithgow Family History Society to celebrate silver anniversary

The Lithgow & District Family History Society Inc would like to invite all members including foundation members and guests to join in the celebration of its 25th Anniversary on Sunday, March 13, 2011 at the Zig Zag Motel, 70 Chifley Road. Lithgow, Cost is \$35 per person for a three course meal.

There will be numerous family tree charts and other memorabilia and photographs on display, as well as a photographic slide show.

There will be 2 CD's for sale for \$10 each. One is a photographic slide show of members and events spanning the 25 years of the society, and the other is a CD on the society's involvement in the Roses from The Heart - Female Convict Bonnets Project.

Some late bookings will be accepted. Anyone may contact the library on (02) 63531089 on Fridays from 10am - 4pm or Tuesday nights from 6pm - 9pm or Helen Taylor (02 6355 7231 or taygun@bigpond.com)

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.



Yvonne Jenkins founder of the society in 1986



From humble beginnings in 1986. The society's first library which was situated under the City Library and was cold and damp

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



The society's premises corner of Tank and Union Streets, Lithgow



Descendant of pioneers during the Hartley procession - 1988

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

Christmas in July

Everglades at Leura will hold Christmas in July lunches on Saturdays July 9 and 23.

Come in costume and join the fun of the Roaring 20s...And all that Jazz. \$50 per person

For bookings 4784 1938

Mudgee's early links with horse racing

by John Broadley

The author of this article, John Broadley, a teacher by profession, undertook a Masters degree in Cultural Heritage Studies post retirement, and since has worked extensively on conservation management programs for numerous buildings in the Central West region of New South Wales.

Currently President of Mudgee Historical Society Inc and a member of the Gulgong-Mudgee-Rylstone branch of the National Trust of Australia (NSW), his special interests are in the early settlement of the Central West region of New South Wales and Australian colonial architecture. John is soon to publish *Historic Houses of Mudgee*, a study of nineteen significant Mudgee district homes and their owners, gardens and outbuildings. Mudgee Historical Society Inc is an inaugural member of the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations.



Isolation and the relatively late arrival of the railway in 1884, caused the Mudgee district to be long reliant on the horse.

Many of the district's pioneer pastoral families played leading roles in the establishment of the bloodstock industry and in the administration of the turf in the colony of New South Wales.

In the early days of the colony William Hayes, an emancipist who took up large tracts of land which evolved into the property now known as Havilah, was a noted breeder and importer of blood stock to Lucan Park, his property at Eastern Creek, west of Sydney.

His neighbour and son-in-law, Charles Roberts of Wallgrove at Eastern Creek, who took up the homestead portion of Havilah, was also a horse breeder of renown, owning at one stage Gratis, one of the foundation stallions of the Australian bloodstock industry.

Prominent district pioneer William Lawson was a skilled equestrian even in his middle age, winning the Governor's Cup on his own horse Spring Gun at Parramatta at the age of fifty-four.

Lawson's Mudgee properties were supervised by youngest son Nelson Simmons Lawson and managed by Nicholas Paget Bayly, who later established the Havilah merino stud.

The first race meeting in the Mudgee district was held on the flats behind Nelson Simmons Lawson's Putta Bucca homestead

in 1842; later meetings were staged successively at Menah and Oakfield, before moving to the old racetrack on the site of the airport in 1861.

The Rouses of Guntawang and Biraganbil were renowned for the quality of their bloodstock, as well as for their carriage and stock horses.

The famous 'crooked R' brand, established by the first Richard Rouse, was immortalised by Banjo Paterson in the poem *A Bushman's Song*:

*This old black horse I'm riding –
if you'll notice what's his brand
He wears the crooked R you see
– none better in the land.*

Horse racing was one of the earliest forms of entertainment for the district's pioneer settlers; race meetings and amateur picnic races are still popular social occasions today in Mudgee.

Henry Bayly of Beaudesert, Mudgee, a son-in-law of William Lawson, operated a horse stud called Bayly Park at South Creek, and at one stage owned Australian, a noted sire, the legendary Jorrock.

It is unclear whether Jorrock was foaled at Bayly Park or Beaudesert, originally and confusingly also called Bayly Park.

Jorrock later belonged to John Richard Rouse of Guntawang, and began his extensive and distinguished racing career in amateur races in the district.

One of the oldest picnic race clubs in New South Wales, the Bligh Amateur Race Club, is based in Mudgee.

The club ran its first meeting in 1874 and meetings have run regularly since then, with the exception of the war years
Continued page 13



The local gentry at the Bligh picnic races circa 1920s. Photograph courtesy Mudgee Historical Society Inc.

1906 Melbourne Cup winner Poseidon owned by Gulgong man

Continued from page 12

Many Mudgee landowners were excellent amateur riders, among whom were Richard Rouse senior of Guntawang and his cousin Richard Rouse junior of Biraganbil. Richard Rouse senior and Vincent Dowling of the Lue Estate were both experted four-in-hand drivers, a sport which was much popularised in recent years by the involvement of Prince Phillip, the Duke of Edinburgh.

Leslie Rouse and Herbert Rouse, sons of Richard Rouse junior of Biraganbil, were both extensively involved in racing.

For many years Leslie Rouse was a keeper of the Australian Stud Book and a prominent AJC administrator, while Herbert Rouse maintained the Biraganbil horse stud.

Ernest Hume, in his *History of Mudgee* compiled in the 1930s, wrote nostalgically of race meetings, when Mudgee must have been a hive of activity:

“In the early days it was a most pleasing sight to witness the entry into town of many old pioneering Bligh families with their prancing, well-groomed four-in-hand teams with coachmen in livery, and trumpeters in resplendent swing made a triumphant parade of the streets while large strings of sleek, well-groomed horses filled the hotel stables.

Among the foundation members of the club were to be found many representatives of those grand old racing families and the names of the Rouses, Lowes, Whites, Dowlings, McMasters, Watts, Bettingtons, Bowmans, Cox’s, Tucklans (sic), Lawsons, Niversons (sic) and Bells are still freely spoken of.”

Members of several of these families remain entrenched in the district and maintain their families’ traditional association with local district racing.

Horses were also a major concern for the Cox family of Fernhill at



Mudgee Racecourse circa 1920s Photograph courtesy Mudgee Historical Society Inc. The race course was moved to the current site (above Lawson’s Creek and not far from the northern bank of the Cudgegong River). The grandstand which appears in both pictures has been demolished.

Mulgoa and Rawdon at Rylstone. Edward King Cox, also a merino breeder, bred Yattendon, winner of the first Sydney Cup and the sire of Chester and Grand Flaneur, themselves both sires and winners of the Melbourne Cup in 1877 and 1880 respectively.

Chester was sold in 1876 to James White, eldest brother of Henry Charles White of Havilah.

James White’s winnings from bets on Chester allegedly paid for the construction of the elaborate mansion on Kirkham, now called Camelot, his racing stud at Camden.

James White also owned Martini-Henry, winner of the Melbourne Cup in 1883; Martini-Henry had the same sire, Musket, as another Melbourne Cup winner, Carbine.

James White also started the Newmarket stables at Randwick and his racing success as an owner in major racing events is still without equal in Australia.

Henry Charles White of Havilah and his son Henry Hunter White were both heavily involved with racing and the AJC and maintained an extensive horse stud at Havilah.

The Thompson family of Rylstone and Bylong has long associations with horses and remains entrenched at Widden stud in the Widden Valley, north-east of Mudgee.

Lochiel, a winning racehorse owned by James Thompson of Bylong, was commemorated by a house in Mudgee named Lochiel, formerly Annan Lodge, now the site of Mudgee Bowling Club, which was owned briefly by the Thompson family in the early 1900s.

(Sir) Hugh Denison of Guntawang at Gulgong, was a successful racing man, owning the 1906 Melbourne Cup winner, Poseidon.



Poseidon, 1906 Melbourne Cup winner

Continued page 14

Boat People, 1788 – 1922

The Blue Mountains Family History Society will conduct a seminar at the Springwood Baptist Church Hall, 313 Macquarie Road, Springwood on Saturday, April 9.

The seminar will discuss the Boat People 1788 - 1922...Why they came, the passages on the boat and what they did when they arrived in Australia.

The following is the program:
 8.45am to 9.15am Registration
 9.15am to 9.30am Welcome: Ian Kendall, M.C.
 9.30am to 10.30am Convicts and Colonists: An overview of the boat people 1788 - 1922: Christine Yeats, Manager, Public Access, State Records NSW.
 10.30am to 11am Morning tea
 11am to 12 noon The sweet, the sour, the seditious ...and the swashbuckling: Gay Hendriksen, Curator, Parramatta Heritage Centre.



Pictured is the third class sleeping quarters and third class yard at the notorious Parramatta Female Factory where female convicts were housed after arriving by boat from England. Photograph courtesy Gay Hendriksen

From British prison to the shores of NSW convict female factory women met the challenges of transportation.

A glimpse of this unique aspect of Australian history.
 12 noon to 1pm Assisted Scottish Passages: Ray Thorburn is a full time family and social historian. He is to talk about the different waves of people who came from Scotland.

1pm to 2pm Lunch
 2pm to 2.30pm Entertainment: Jim Lowe, Folk Singer
 2.30pm to 3.30pm European Immigrants: Gary Luke is a NSW committee member of the Australian Jewish Historical Society who will talk about European and Jewish immigration in the period 1788 – 1922.
 3.30pm to 4.00pm Afternoon tea and finish

For further information, please contact Jan Koperberg Phone: (02) 4754 1544 Email: jank@eftel.com.au

Other Melbourne Cup winners links with Mudgee

Continued from page 13

Born Hugh Dixon, he changed his name to Denison to avoid confusion with his uncle and namesake, Sir Hugh Dixon, a staunch Methodist who disapproved of his nephew's association with racing.

During his period of ownership of Guntawang from 1908 - 1918, the property was renamed Eumaralla.

Local newspapers regularly recorded the successes, progeny and health of the bloodstock of the district's nabobs, intermingled with social jottings:

"After going home to Guntawang Mr Rouse's Dum Dum nearly died from being overheated. The daughter of Projectile is now quite recovered." *Mudgee Guardian*, December 2, 1901.

Two other Melbourne Cup winners have indirect links with the district.



Noted sire the legendary, Jorrock

Westcourt, the winner of the 1917 Melbourne Cup, was at one stage owned by Daniel Seaton, owner of Eurunderee at Mudgee, adjacent to Westcourt, formerly Frederickburg.

Rodney Rouse Dangar of Baroona, Singleton, a nephew of Richard Rouse senior of Guntawang, was the owner of Peter Pan, winner of the 1932 Melbourne Cup.

The Mudgee district continues its association with the horse into the present day, with large breeding, breaking and spelling establishments at Gooree and Guntawang and Havilah.

John Broadley (Copyright 2006)

BMACHO's

annual general meeting to be held at Everglades, Leura on Saturday March 19 commencing at 2.30pm
 Guest speaker: Maisy Stapleton - deputy CEO National Trust of Australia (NSW)
 Bookings to Jan Koperberg
 4754 3275

Glenbrook's horse trough - a new role in retirement

By John Low

Last year John Leary, the editor of this splendid journal, wrote a piece in *HERITAGE* about George and Annis Bills and their extraordinary horse trough legacy. (Leary, 2010)

To illustrate his article he used a photograph of the horse trough at Glenbrook, one of four Bills troughs in the Blue Mountains and located on the western side of the Glenbrook Theatre (formerly the School of Arts) facing Ross Street near its intersection with the Great Western Highway.

The other Blue Mountains troughs funded through the Bills estate can be found at Warrimoo, Wentworth Falls and Medlow Bath.

Though not in its original position, the Glenbrook trough was installed outside the School of Arts almost certainly in the 1930s.

At some stage (possibly when the building was converted into a theatre) the trough was removed by the Blue Mountains City Council and placed in storage.

It was returned to public life during the Glenbrook Centenary celebrations in 1985 and 'unveiled' by Mayor Peter Quirk on Sunday, November 10 in the presence of residents and a number of local horses. (Anonymous, 1985)



The plaque on the Glenbrook horse trough



The Glenbrook horse trough

It is currently accessible and in good condition, though missing the small dog trough usually attached to Bills funded troughs.

In his article John mentioned a unique feature of this trough that distinguishes it from other Bills troughs, both in the Mountains and elsewhere – the presence of a small brass plaque bearing the words: "This trough was donated in remembrance of those horses that did not return from the First World War 1914-1918".

Is this, however, strictly correct? While the Animal Protection Society, NSW, (of which George Bills was a 'life governor') expressed the hope at the conclusion of the war that "the services rendered by war horses and dogs" would be recognised by the erection of war memorial troughs (APSNSW, 1919) and George Bills would certainly have been in agreement with this, there is no mention in his will, drawn up in 1925, two years before his death, of the war being the reason behind his bequest.

Following legacies to family, friends and employees, the will stipulated that a trust fund be formed from the residue of his estate to fund horse troughs wherever, with the consent of the appropriate authorities, they be deemed "necessary or desirable for the relief of horses or other dumb animals" and to assist the work of societies and organisations established for the purpose of

protecting and alleviating cruelty to animals. (Bills, 1925)

The trust (to be administered by his sister Daisy and her husband) was a natural outgrowth of George's long standing concern for animal welfare and ensured that his and his late wife's ideals would continue to find expression after his death.

Indeed, when the demand for horse troughs lessened in the post-war years, the Bills Trust shifted its primary concentration to the wider problems of animal welfare.

It appears that the inscription on the Glenbrook trough was added at the time of its resurrection in 1985 and though conceivably the fate of the war horses could have informed the original application to the Bills estate for funding, the plaque is more likely the result of later misunderstanding.

Though qualified somewhat in her recent publication (Aston, 2009), in her earlier history of Glenbrook, published around the time of the centenary celebrations, local historian Nell Aston certainly cites the memorial aspect as the reason behind the Bills' benefaction, writing that troughs were funded "because they [the Bills] were concerned about the hundreds of Australian horses abandoned overseas after World War I". (Aston 1986)

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Thousands of horses shipped off to WW1 ... one returned alive

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Despite such issues of accuracy, however, the addition of the plaque has had a serendipitous effect. It has given the Glenbrook trough a new role in its 'retirement', a role not unsympathetic to the ideals behind the Bills bequest.

It has turned the old horse trough into a war memorial and, as far as I'm aware, the only war memorial in the Blue Mountains dedicated to animals and reminding us of their service and suffering through war.

When World War I began horse power was still the primary means of transporting people and goods and the military needed horses.

Thousands were required to move food, supplies and ammunition, evacuate the sick and wounded and the artillery regiments depended on them to transport their heavy guns. And then, of course, there were the mounted chargers so prized by the Light Horse, the tough, sure-footed Australian Walers with a reputation second-to-none.

Of the 135,926 Walers shipped overseas for military purposes during World War I it is generally believed that only one returned. (Yarwood, 1989)

Sandy was repatriated with the body of his rider, Major General Sir William Throsby Bridges, leading the general's funeral cortege and then being pensioned off to spend the rest of his life at the Central Remount Depot, Maribyrnong, Victoria.

Blind and sick he was put down in 1923. As for the rest, if they survived the war, quarantine issues and the cost of shipping them back to Australia saw them left behind.

They were 'humanely' slaughtered, sold locally or handed on to British units.

Despite the efforts of many, especially among the light horsemen, to secure a humane future for the horses, confirmed cases of abuse occurred.



The legendary Australian light horse regiments were the mounted infantry whose men and horses were inseparable in desert warfare.

Many light horsemen were genuinely and emotionally scarred by the enforced separation and attempts during the post-war years to raise money to buy back old war horses reflected a considerable degree of public disquiet.

In the 1920s a memorial trough dedicated to the war horses was erected in St. Kilda Road, Melbourne (relocated in 1986 to the Shrine of Remembrance Reserve) and for many years was the centre piece of an annual remembrance service.

It was funded with money raised by the Purple Cross Service of Victoria, a body formed in 1915 to work on behalf of horses employed at the front.

George Bills, retired from his Sydney business and living in Melbourne at this time and active in the Victorian Society for the Protection of Animals, may well have donated money to this trough and even attended the 'turning on the water' ceremony presided over by General Sir John Monash on May 10, 1926. (Pertzel, 2006)

What an attraction the Glenbrook trough could become as the focus of a distinct and unique memorial service on Anzac Day and/or Remembrance Day each year!

Bringing together such organisations as the RSL, the RSPCA, the historical society, the chamber of commerce and the schools and with a recounting of stories of individual war horses, dogs etc., especially of animals and their handlers associated with the Blue Mountains area, a truly individual experience of community remembrance could be fostered.

There is a recent precedent. In the South Australian town of Barmera, a horse trough erected in 1930 to honour the memory of horses who participated in World War I was rededicated by the local primary school children in 2000.

The children pledged to hold a service there on Remembrance Day each year and to lay colourful, horseshoe-shaped wreaths on the trough.

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Glenbrook horse trough

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The local council later attached a plaque declaring that the trough had been handed over to the care of the children and featuring a poem composed by the President of the Barmera RSL. (Berri-Barmera Council, 2001)

George and Annis Bills would most certainly have approved.

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'All you Gotta Do is Swing'

'All you gotta do is swing - Some Adventures at the sharp end of Jazz' is the subject chosen by Peter Newton who is the guest speaker at the Blue Mountains Historical Society's annual general meeting to be held commencing at 10am on Saturday, April 2. For further information telephone John Low on 4782 3751.

Royal award for Les and Anne



The Royal Australian Historical Society has recognised the great work of Les and Anne Dollin of the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society for their researching, recording and conducting historical field trips. Kathie McMahon-Nolf the inaugural president of Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society (at right) presented the award on behalf of the RAHS. Photograph courtesy The Millstone

INDEXES = INFORMATION

Ever spent hours hunting through old journals looking for details you remember reading, but want now? Or did you just give up?

In 2001 Suzanne Voytas, then president of Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc, and I were bemoaning the under utilisation of not only our past copies of *The Explorers' Tree*, but journals of other societies.

They held useful information and represented a considerable outlay of our limited funds. To me indexing was the dreaded chore that marked the completion of one of my textbooks, yet I agreed to start indexing the society's holdings.

To date the society has published indexes to our journal holdings for 2003, 2004-6, 2007-8, 2009-2010 ready now and 2011 is underway.

Combined total is about 18,000 entries from societies from every state and territory, as well as some overseas sources.

Family details are published where we live, not where our ancestors lived so our research interests are worldwide and, of course, local studies provide the setting in which they lived.

So indexes are essential! *BMACHO Heritage* is not included in the journal indexes as it is restricted to hard copies only, but index to 2009-2010 can be accessed on BMFHS website at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nswbmfhs/res/bmacho.htm>

Our copy of NSW edition of *All Australia WW1* soldiers has been made accessible with an index.

Miscellaneous indexes to Blue Mountains businesses from advertisements add to our local knowledge and help enquirers.

An index to upper mountains references in Lithgow Family History Society's extracts from *The Clarion* newspaper in 1942 enabled us to find the location of an evacuated family as they were mentioned in a gossip column ... and so on.

Where there is a need, I will probably get around to compiling an index but although I admit a degree of efficiency I still do not enjoy indexing. However I do appreciate the speed with which articles can be located.

Joan Edwards
Past President, Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc.

Colonial vineyard's history salvaged

A box of documents containing rare information about the State's oldest existing vineyard has been donated to the State Library of NSW.

The box was salvaged by a man scavenging the Cessnock rubbish tip. He in turn gave it to his friend, coal miner Bill Chapman, an avid collector of old papers. Bill recently opened the box to find some 3500 documents dating from the 1840s to 1900 relating to the pioneer wine producers George and John Wyndham. Wyndham Estate manager Stephen Guilbaud-Oulton purchased the documents from Bill and donated the entire archive to the library.

State Library head of Manuscripts, Tracy Bradford, said this was arguably the world's largest single collection relating to the running of a colonial vineyard.

"Interestingly we can see from the collection that Australian wines were gaining international recognition



An early image of the Wyndham cooperage

way back in the 1860s to 1880s, even though most people think the Australian wine industry came of age in the 1970s" she said.

George Wyndham became the father of Australia's shiraz after planting the first commercial shiraz vineyard in 1830. He and John enjoyed great success at international competitions, with a gold award at Bordeaux in 1882 and a Diploma of Honour at the 1883 Amsterdam International Exhibition among their wins.

The box of documents includes fascinating details about the logistics of transporting wine by rail from Branxton, correspondence with clients and a letter signed by Hardy's Wines founder Thomas Hardy calling one of John Wyndham's drops, "the wine of the show." In 1886 John Wyndham commissioned photographer Harrie Ballard to record his vineyard to homestead and celebrate his viticultural achievement. Of 18 pictorial albums produced only a few survive, one in the State Library.

BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

REGISTERED OFFICE 14 Bunnal Ave, Winmalee 2777
E-mail: jank@eftel.com.au or bmacho.heritage@gmail.com
Website: www.bluemountains.heritage.com

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 BMACHO's official newsletter is edited by John Leary, OAM.

Blue Mountains History Journal is edited by Dr Peter Rickwood.

MEMBERSHIP The following organisations are members of BMACHO: Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mount Tomah, 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., Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society Inc, Lillianfels 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 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.