

HERITAGE

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OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

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Governor visits heritage grave

A service to celebrate the completed restoration and State Heritage Listing of the 1831 grave of Eliza Rodd on the Glenroy property of Mr and Mrs Barber near Hartley saw Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir, AC, CVO accompanied by Sir Nicholas Shehadie once again visit the region.

The following is an extract from an article in the *Lithgow Mercury* written by its editor Len Ainsworth, OAM.

BACK on April 30, 1815 when Governor Lachlan Macquarie traversed Cox's Road and visited Hartley for the first time he wrote in his diary that the vista before him was 'one of the finest landscapes of any country I have yet visited'.

One hundred and ninety six years later the 47th Governor of NSW Dr Marie Bashir, was back at the same site, repeating his words of praise.

The ceremony marked the listing on the State Heritage Register of the relics of the military barracks that existed on the site and the recently restored grave of a child who died there while her father was in charge of the 39th Regiment of Foot [detachment].

The regiment was stationed at Hartley and charged with protecting pioneers as they made their way to the newly opened land beyond the Blue Mountains.

Dr Bashir addressed an invitation-only crowd at a monument at the Glenroy camping reserve that marks the site where Governor Macquarie attended the first Christian church service west of the Blue Mountains in 1815.

The Governor referred to the importance of the Glenroy relics, now on the property of Bradley and Rosemary Barber and family, to the colonial history of NSW.

She said that as the 47th Governor of this State she was proud to walk in the footsteps of Governor Macquarie who had brought enlightened and compassionate leadership to the colony.

He arrived to find a 'wretched and demoralised people' but was able to transform the young colony into what was described as 'the greatest appendage of the British Empire'.

Dr Bashir described how Governor Macquarie's humane treatment of the convicts and his emancipation and welfare programs raised the ire of the British establishment

back home who were concerned that the colony was becoming 'too attractive' to the former soldiers and sailors out of work after the end of the Napoleonic Wars.

She said that upon his visit to Hartley he described 'the finest landscape of any country I have yet visited'.

Dr Bashir said Governor Macquarie's vision was an encouragement to free settlers and



The Governor Prof Marie Bashir , accompanied by the Chair of Lithgow Reginal Branch of the National Trust of Australia (NSW), Mrs Marcia Osterberg-Olsen, Mr and Mrs Bradley inspect the grave site of Eliza Rodd. Photograph courtesy Lithgow Mercury

had paved the way for the growth of NSW.

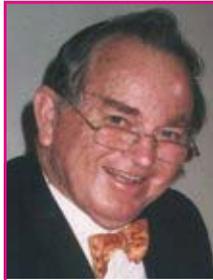
Earlier Dr Bashir was welcomed by the National Trust local branch chairperson Marcia Osterberg-Olsen and by Mr Brad and Mrs Rosemary Barber, and took part in a ceremony marking the restoration of the grave of eight month old Eliza Rodd. Descendants of the Rodd family came from Perth for the occasion and read a poignant letter from descendants in France.

Continued page 5

- * P1 Governor visits heritage grave
- * P2 Premier keeps promise to create Heritage Ministry
- * P3 BMACHO has a new president
- * P3 President's profile
- * P4 Thank you for Ian Jack
- * P4 Council agrees to establish heritage advisory committee
- * P5 A lone grave on the hillside
- * P5 RAHS has new president
- * P6 At 86 Norman Lindsay designed Springwood crest
- * P8 NSW Corps of Marines
- * P9 Convict women and the female factories
- * P11 Educating Hartley ... and not the common moral decency of a privy



- * P14 25th year for Lithgow Family History
- * P15 Dynamic duo to 'call it a day'
- * P15 Turf racing connections
- * P15 Patchwork to honour ancestors
- * P15 An artist in the gardens
- * P16 Successful seminar
- * P16 New museums advisor
- * P17 Sheep and shearing
- * P17 Kurrajong Collections
- * P17 Eat history
- * P18 Nth Springwood's earliest orchards
- * P20 Spire restoration wins National Trust award



From the editor's pen.....

Premier keeps promise to create heritage ministry

All associated with the heritage sector and those who have an interest in conserving and maintaining our heritage will welcome the early appointment of a minister for heritage by the new Premier of NSW, Barry O'Farrell.

The new government has given heritage a voice in cabinet.

The new Minister for Heritage, Robyn Parker who also has responsibility for the environment ministry has many challenges ahead of her - not the least of which is getting up to speed on the scope and range of heritage and environmental issues in NSW.

By her own admission the learning curve is steep, and we should wish her well, because, frankly, the state of our heritage needs Robyn Parker to succeed.

Prior to the March state election, the Coalition promised that heritage would receive special attention. Much of this was spelt out by the then shadow minister Catherine Cusack when she was guest speaker at a BMACHO initiated public meeting.

The pledge to appoint a heritage minister to protect historical and culturally significant items was only one of the promises made.

Among the other promises was an overhaul of the operations of the Heritage Council and to provide greater certainty and transparency in decision making.

The Coalition undertook to reverse the previous government's decision to move the Heritage Office into the Department of Planning.

The Heritage Amendment Bill 2009 significantly modified the make-up of the Heritage Council, removing representation from groups such as the History Council of NSW.

The Heritage Bill sent a chill up the spine of most in the heritage sector and gave great joy to property

developers through a system which was already open to corruption more rife than it already was.

The extraordinary change to the delisting process placed in the then minister and any future minister's sole discretion the ability to delist State Heritage Register listed places.

Australia has a wide variety of heritage assets and it is vital that our natural, built and cultural heritage is conserved for future generations.

Some might wonder why the Premier decided to conjointly appoint Robyn Parker as the Minister for Heritage and the Minister for the Environment then taking on some of the responsibilities himself.

Although responsibility for the environment is an all embracing portfolio, one does not have to go very far to see the connection between the environment and our heritage

It is important to recognise we are custodians of the priceless asset of our World Heritage listed Blue Mountains National Park. An asset which is vulnerable not only because of the probability of a catastrophic fire which would completely destroy its biodiversity; but also by the over incursion of mankind with such ventures as hunting, shooting and other activities which will inevitably if permitted to occur, damage the very ecology which makes National Parks such valuable heritage assets.

The appointment by the NSW Coalition of a minister for heritage within 10 days is commendable, but there is still a long way to go to redress the long history of deficiencies which has been the lot of heritage. The heritage sector will do well to monitor the promises made while the Coalition was in Opposition to ensure that heritage gets a better deal. Given that there is a voice at the cabinet table, the heritage sector now needs to speak with a loud and clear voice.

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

BMACHO HAS A NEW PRESIDENT

Despite torrential rain a well attended annual general meeting in March at Everglades saw the retirement after 5 years in office of the BMACHO's inaugural president John Leary, OAM and the election of the new president, Pamela Smith of the Springwood Historians.

In his annual report the retiring president paid tribute to what he described as 'a quite unique body of people who have led and directed the association over its first five years.'

He paid particular tribute to Ian Jack, Barrie Reynolds and Peter Stanbury, OAM who had been on the committee since it was first formed. Others who had provided real assistance to the committee included Dick Morony, Florence Smart, Joan Kent, Doug Knowles, Jean Arthur, and Kathie McMahan-Nolf. Jan Koperberg was singled out for special praise for her dedication and effectiveness as secretary during the past year.

Mr Leary said, "he was grateful he had had an opportunity to witness first hand the incredible energy and dedication of hundreds, nay thousands of individuals working voluntarily in so many different ways and on so many different projects to protect, conserve and promote the heritage of this country's wide and diverse history."

The full report has been e-mailed to all members and associates.

The election saw only a few changes in the team to lead the organisation in the coming year. Those elected as committee members were; Pamela Smith, president; Ian Jack, vice president; Jan Koperberg, secretary; Joan Kent, treasurer; Jean Arthur, Doug Knowles, John Leary, Kathie McMahan-Nolf, Dick Morony, Barrie Reynolds and Peter Stanbury .

Pictured below are some of the 50 who attend the meeting.



Past president, John Leary, OAM welcomes BMACHO's new president, Pamela Smith (left) with secretary Jan Koperberg (centre) at the annual general meeting held at Everglades, Leura. Photograph courtesy Dr Peter Stanbury, OAM.

President's profile

The incoming president of BMACHO has been a resident of the Blue Mountains for the best part of 40 years.

She enjoyed a long association with Braemar Gallery, Springwood as both co-director and chair of the management committee.

The first ever Blue Mountains history conference was organised by Pamela in 2001, with the assistance of John Low (then BMCC local studies librarian), as part of the Centenary of Federation celebrations. She received the Centenary of Federation Medal for her efforts.

Several more were held (until the event was handed over to BMCC library) because the initial conference had been so well received.

The initiative was taken up by the local studies section of Penrith City Council who, since 2002, stages an event annually.

Pamela has a BA (Hons) degree in History as well as an Advanced Diploma in Local Family and Applied History.

Her honours thesis focused on private education in the Blue Mountains, while an earlier thesis dealt with the presence of the fascist Old Guard Movement in the Blue Mountains in the 1930s.

For several years she tutored University of the Third Age groups on aspects of the history of the area.

She is a member of Springwood Historians and was a major contributor to *The Making of a Mountain Community: a Biographical Dictionary of the Springwood District*, and collaborated with Shirley Evans on *Remembrance: Springwood District Honor Roll 1914-1919*.

She is currently enrolled in the Master of History degree course at the University of New England, Armidale and has a special interest in non-government private venture schools, local/public history, the Old and New Guard and women's history, especially women involved in politics and local government.



Thank you for Ian Jack



The tremendous assistance over many years, given to historical societies and heritage groups throughout NSW and in particular in the Blue Mountains, Lithgow and Hawkesbury regions by leading Australian historian, Associate Professor Ian Jack has been recognised by the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations Inc. (BMACHO).

Dr Jack has contributed his outstanding knowledge to many voluntary organisations including the Royal Australian Historical Society from which he has just retired as president. BMACHO of which he is vice president, the Heritage Council of NSW, and the National Trust of Australia (NSW).

Speaking at the recent annual general meeting BMACHO's retiring president, John Leary, OAM said: "Ian is a consummate scholar. His clarity of mind and communication are recognised and admired widely.

"Ian's enthusiasm and largeness of spirit inspires all who are interested in the heritage cause."

His academic work is never ending while he is regularly called upon to lecture and speak on history and heritage throughout Australia.

Ian is a prolific writer contributing to historical journals and writing many books

He is well known for his work internationally and locally.

Dr Jack has been a long standing member of the History Department at the University of Sydney and was its head for 8 years in the 1990s.

He was also Dean of the Faculty of Arts. He has been associated with St Andrews College of the University since 1980, is a senior fellow and responsible for the College archives.

Dr Peter Stanbury OAM said: "Ian Jack has been an indefatigable advocate of the importance of history and heritage in Australia."

Ian has many interesting anecdotes about history in the Greater Blue Mountains area, and he once said: "Heritage is always willing to talk to us if we are receptive enough to talk to it: handshaking is only the beginning of communication. Here in the Blue Mountains, we have endless opportunities for such discourse."

"I know from these anecdotes that Ian's favourite slab hut is the one in Kanimbla Valley built by Peter O'Reilly, and immortalised in his son's book, named, like the hut, *Cullenbenbong*," Mr Leary said.

Pictured is Associate Professor Ian Jack with Mrs Nanette Leary presenting him with a painting of *Cullenbenbong* which she painted.

Council agrees to establish heritage advisory committee

Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC) at its May meeting has agreed to the establishment of the Blue Mountains Heritage Advisory Committee as a committee of council.

This is indeed a good outcome for BMACHO which has sought to bring BMCC into line with numerous other councils around the country through heritage advisory committees effectively harnessing the wealth of knowledge and expertise in the community to ensure better heritage policies as well as a more informed decision making process in heritage matters at the level of local government.

Although the way is now clear for council to establish this committee with a number of the recommendations made by BMACHO having been included in its charter, there are still some issues raised by BMACHO that are lacking in the terms of reference for the establishment of the committee.

The major issue of which is the infrequency of committee meetings. However, once the committee is established it may be possible to have council increase the frequency.

A more detailed report on the proposed committee will be forwarded to BMACHO members in the near future.

The next stage is for council staff to advertise for people in the community to submit expressions of interest in serving on this committee. It is anticipated that there will be 8 - 12 community members on the committee.

The process of appointing these members from past experience could take 3-4 months.

A LONE GRAVE ON THE HILLSIDE

(M.Osterberg-Olsen, 2010)

Eliza Rodd was the daughter of career soldier James Rodd. He fought with the 39th regiment in Canada during the Anglo-American war. The 39th was transferred to France, arriving shortly before the Battle of Waterloo on June 18, 1815. While in France he married Judith Joseph Baudelet and they had two children.

The Regiment was stationed in Ireland from 1819 and then transferred to NSW in 1826. James and Judith Rodd brought their son to New South Wales, but left their four year old daughter Marie-Anne with her grandparents in Chamblain, France as she was thought too young to make the journey.

James Rodd was initially stationed at Parramatta before being promoted to colour sergeant in 1827 and sent to Bathurst. By 1829 he was in charge of members of the 39th regiment stationed at Glenroy. Eliza Rodd was born on January 10, 1831 and baptised by the Anglican minister at Bathurst. She was the second child born to James and Judith in NSW. She died on September 14, 1831.

James Rodd was transferred back to Sydney with his family at the beginning of 1832 leaving a lone grave on a hillside overlooking an idyllic view and marked lovingly with professionally crafted head and footstones. Judith died at Sydney on April 19, 1832.

The 39th Regiment was then transferred to India, taking its colour sergeant and his young sons far from the lone grave at Glenroy. Colour Sergeant James Rodd died in India in December 1832, leaving 13 year old Ambrose and 6 year old James junior orphaned.

Restoration work and protection of the infant Eliza Rodd's Grave has been an on-going project of the National Trust of Australia (NSW) - Lithgow Regional Branch since 2007. Repairs and restoration were completed in mid 2009. A photograph taken of the site in the early 1900's evidences a wood fence.



A member of the 73rd Regiment of Foot re-enactment group looks pensively at the grave of 8-month old Eliza Rodd. The grave (1831) now listed on the State Heritage Inventory is on the hillside described by Governor Lachlan Macquarie as 'one of the finest landscapes of any country I have yet visited'. Photograph courtesy Ian Jack

RAHS has new president

After a record 8 years outstanding service as president of the Royal Australian Historical Society Inc., Professor Ian Jack last month stood down from office.

David Carment (pictured) has been elected to succeed Ian. David also chairs the Royal Australia Historical Society committee that provides a community forum for discussions about commemorating the first crossings of the Blue Mountains.

He is Emeritus Professor of History at Charles Darwin University in the Northern Territory, where he was also Dean of the Faculty of Law, Business and Arts. David was, however, born and brought up in Sydney, where he returned to live in 2006.

He has strong personal links with the Blue Mountains, where he is a frequent visitor. His mother's family, the Sulmans, had a home in Lawson for many years, and some of his closest relations currently live in Wentworth Falls and Woodford.

He has published extensively in Australian political history, the history of Central Queensland,



Northern Territory history and Northern Territory politics.

His most recent publications include two family histories.

Actively involved throughout his career in community and professional activities, he is a former president of the Australian Historical Association, the Historical Society of the Northern Territory and the National Trust of Australia (Northern Territory) and is president of the Mosman Historical Society.

In 2003, he was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his services to heritage and history.

AT 86 NORMAN LINDSAY DESIGNED SPRINGWOOD'S TOWN CREST

By Shirley Evans, Springwood
Historians

It was 1965 and, at last, Springwood was to have a hall! Designed by local architect and World War II veteran, Eric Skarrat, and built by Alec Gall Constructions Pty Ltd, it was begun in February, 1965 and completed in February, 1966.

The people of Springwood had long felt the need for a hall.

William Rayner, one of the earliest general store proprietors, set up his extensive business in about 1877. His store had a large room attached to it and this became known as Rayner's Hall.

Here despite its inadequate size, most of the meetings and gatherings of the town were held – the Progress Committee, various lodges, political gatherings, the Literary and Debating Club, church services, concerts.

This continued until 1893 when William found he needed the extra space for his business.

Gustav Larsen and his nephew, Axel Bech, Sydney tobacconists, had a holiday home, *Elsinore*, in Macquarie Rd which had a billiard room and they kindly offered this for community use.

The Royal Hotel also hosted meetings.

William Honeysett, another general storekeeper, built a fairly large hall (66ft x 30ft) in 1909 which included a refreshment room. This burnt down together with the shops around it in 1921.

The Springwood School of Arts was opened in 1913 but it was not suitable for dances or balls having only a library, office space and a large billiard room.

Meetings were sometimes held there but nothing on a large scale.

Both during and after World War I Springwood people began campaigning and fund raising to build a War Memorial Hall but this came to nothing.

In 1923 an open air theatre was built in Macquarie Rd by Harry Williams.

It was known first as the Springwood Theatre, then the Plaza and finally the Roxy.

It had seating for 450 people and could be used for dances and balls when it was later roofed. Made of corrugated iron, it was not a beautiful building but could be decorated with a bit of imagination.

But now in 1965 the town was actually getting a purpose built, architect designed hall. 1965 also happened to be the 150th anniversary of the naming of Springwood by Governor Lachlan Macquarie.



Springwood's town crest on the wall of Springwood Civic Centre. Photograph courtesy John Merriman.

The Springwood Chamber of Commerce decided it was a propitious time for the town to have its own coat of arms which could then be permanently displayed in the new hall.

Bruce Jackson, son of Joseph Jackson MLA and proprietor of the Stonewall Jackson store in Macquarie Rd suggested that respected local artist, Norman Lindsay, who had been a Springwood resident since 1913 and was still an active creative artist at the age of 86, should be asked to design the coat of arms.

The Macquarie Historical Society (now known as the Springwood Historical Society) of which Bruce Jackson was a member enthusiastically adopted the idea and Norman Lindsay agreed to create the design.

He painted in water colours a coat of arms with a central figure of a lyre bird with tail spread and crowned with a waratah.

Lyre birds were commonly found in the Springwood bush and were actually bred in captivity by Jack Coyle who lived in Raymond Rd Springwood in the 1930s. He had a licence to do so.

The waratah was also commonly found in the Springwood bush and was frequently plundered by tourists to the area.

On one side of the lyre bird was an aboriginal man holding spears who represented the first inhabitants of the region and on the other side was a white man representing the contribution of explorers to the Blue Mountains.

Royal College of Arms did not recognise it as a genuine coat of arms

Continued from page 6

Underneath was the name Springwood on a curved ribbon. Considerable research went into the devices of the design with the cooperation of the Society of Australian Genealogists to conform to the rules of Heraldry.

However, it could not be regarded as a genuine coat of arms, the right for which needed to be granted by the Royal College of Arms in London.

The Macquarie Historical Society wrote to the Blue Mountains City Council proposing that Lindsay's design "*be embodied as a feature in the front of the building [i.e. the new Civic Centre], and that it be constructed of some durable material.*"

"We think that this feature would embellish the new building and, at the same time, relate it to the outstanding progress of the district from the days of the aborigine and the explorer, to the present state of development."

It was thought that executing the design in tiles by the majolica process would provide a suitably durable display and would ensure

the permanence of the colours and quotes were sought from Diana Pottery in Marrickville.

This pottery was probably the most important of the Australian potteries in the 1960s producing brightly coloured ceramics often featuring flora and fauna.

Lindsay and the pottery artists had consultations regarding the colours and Norman also experimented at home, decorating tiles using pen and ink, watercolours and oils according to Harry McPhee in his *Memories of Norman Lindsay*. To set the colour he fired the tiles in his own electric oven.

In addition to the tiled reproduction for the Springwood Civic Centre the design was said by Alderman Powell, a Springwood developer, to have been intended for reduction to a size suitable for letterheads etc. However, he said, it was not the intention of the Macquarie Historical Society or the Springwood Chamber of Commerce to commercialise the emblem.

When Alderman Powell showed the design to the council, Alderman Hunter was not entirely satisfied with it, saying he felt it was archaic.

Other criticisms were made regarding the position of the lyre bird's tail. Alec Chisholm, noted ornithologist, disagreed.

Mr F Walford, a well known bushman, said that the lyre bird normally held its tail parallel with the ground and only occasionally threw it over its head for a very short time.

Aldermen Hunter and Campbell moved that the design be displayed publicly in the Springwood district and the public asked to express approval or disapproval.

The result showed 702 approvals and 24 disapprovals. These votes came from Springwood, Faulconbridge, Valley Heights and Warrimoo with 23 votes cast from elsewhere.

Diana Pottery quoted £65 for the work, 36 inches by 30 inches with the Springwood Chamber of Commerce agreeing to meet the cost.

The Macquarie Historical Society was given the custodianship of the work. The only problem was the name "coat of arms".

The Blue Mountains City Council already had a coat of arms so it was decided to call it the Springwood emblem or crest.

Norman Lindsay was a famous artist so the Sydney newspapers and even an Auckland, New Zealand paper picked up the story. News items were published in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Sun*, and the *Mirror*.

One Sydney newspaper (title unknown) said: '*With a display of political brilliance the Blue Mountains City Council appears to have found a formula to resolve the embarrassing case of the Norman Lindsay coat of arms design.*'

And later in the item: '*And so the mountain men have demonstrated how to win and lose at the same time.*'

Continued page 8



Norman Lindsay was better known for controversy surrounding his painting of nudes and the naked nymphs like this sculpture which still stands in the grounds of the National Trust of Australia (NSW) owned property, Norman Lindsay Gallery at Faulconbridge.

‘Even this innocent work of art, with not a naked lady insight’ caused controversy

Continued from page 7

When Norman Lindsay heard of the controversy he was quite amused. Harry McPhee, his assistant and companion in those later years, said in *Memoirs of Norman Lindsay 1879 – 1969*: *‘Even this innocent work of art, with not a naked lady in sight, invited controversy.*

‘Would you believe that some of the council aldermen disputed the position of the lyre bird’s tail. With his usual aplomb, he retorted that at his age he didn’t take aldermen very seriously and wouldn’t care if they threw it in the garbage. He said that generations of critics had been trying to brain him with their feeding bottles.’

He was also quoted as saying: *‘At my time of life one does not take aldermen very seriously. They came and bothered me to design a crest. It represented about a morning’s work. I don’t care what they do with it. I can’t take the whole thing seriously.’*

And: *‘Heavens, Lord love a duck. When I think of all the uproar over my work in the past... now this. I think it’s damn funny; I wouldn’t care a hoot if they put it in the garbage. At my time of life one does not take aldermen seriously.’*

So the tiled and framed work was duly completed and now hangs on the wall in the Springwood Civic Centre facing the entrance which is glassed and has a westerly aspect.

Despite the hopes for the durability of the colours it appears to have faded and has lost the brightness of the original painting.

Springwood Historians were privileged to view the original which is safely archived at the Norman Lindsay Gallery. It has been occasionally shown as part of special exhibitions but otherwise is safe from the depredations suffered by the tiled rendition.

I wondered if the Springwood town crest had a part in today’s local life and was delighted to discover it is still being used (with the approval of

the Springwood Historical Society) by a few groups.

Early on the Springwood Chamber of Commerce had the design stencilled onto something like firm plastic with “Member of the Springwood Chamber of Commerce” added.

One of these was framed and is in the local studies section of the Blue Mountains City Library.

Another is attached to the window of the Honey Gem Nursery.

I can find no one with any recollection of this initiative. It was also said in a letter to Mr Keith Wingrove of the National Art Gallery of South Australia from the Blue Mountains City Council that the Springwood Chamber of Commerce has made use of the emblem on signs erected on the outskirts of Springwood bearing the inscription *Welcome to Springwood*. This remains another mystery.

More recently the crest is used by the Springwood Historical Society on their letterheads, newsletters and calendars.

The Springwood Chamber of Commerce has it on their letterhead.

The Springwood Sports Club has had the design on their badge for many years and it is also printed on their membership card. It decorates a lot of their merchandise – shirts, jackets, vests, caps and bowling cloths.

A history of the club was printed as place mats for the official opening of their new premises and it is liberally decorated with the crest and they have recently had the design stencilled on the glass entrance doors.

I think Norman Lindsay would be pleased.

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A lyre bird.

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McPhee, Harry *‘Memories of Norman Lindsay 1870-1969’*
Springwood Civic Centre and Administrative Offices – Official Souvenir Programme (for opening)
Springwood Historical Society minutes
Sydney newspaper, title unknown

My thanks to:

Sue Bourke, Honey Gem Nursery
Peter Chinn, president, Springwood Historical Society
John Merriman, Blue Mountains City Council - Local Studies Librarian
David Moss, Springwood Chamber of Commerce
Pamela Smith, Springwood Historians
Springwood Sports Club
Amanda Trevillion, manager, Norman Lindsay Gallery.

NSW CORPS OF MARINES

Gavin Jones a member of the NSW Corps of Marines reenactment group will speak on the original Corps of Marine’s role in colonial history at the June 4 meeting of the Blue Mountains Historical Society.

He and his colleagues will also present demonstration of marching and musket fire.

For further information Susan Warmbath 4757 3402.

Convict women and the female factories

By Gay Hendriksen - Curator Parramatta Heritage Centre

Convict Female Factory Women were *women transported* - transported from one place to another, one life to another, one world to another.

Their stories range from those of machine breakers and displaced farm workers to petty thieves and family women just trying to survive.

An estimated 9,000 convict women were in the 12 female factories over a period of 52 years -1804 to 1856.

The colonial convict women coming to Australia would have been experiencing and witnessing the results and meaning of the Agrarian, Industrial and accompanying social revolution as well as the implications of the French Revolution. Some certainly participated in and witnessed the breaking of the looms in England's north.

The Irish, Scottish and Welsh in some cases would have been reacting to the hundreds of years of British 'colonising'. Many left family and children never to see them again.

The early transportation journey began in prisons which had not yet felt the effects of the great prison reformers such as John Howard and Elizabeth Fry.

John Howard in 1777 wrote about his observations of some of the prisons he visited.

In the Old Newgate he observed: *The rooms and cells were so close as to be almost constant seats of disease, and sources of infection, to the destruction of multitudes, not only in the prison, but abroad.*¹

Of Ffolkingham he said: *Prison under the keeper's house ...5 damp rooms, two are used for a lunatic... by a trapdoor in one of these rooms you go down 8 steps into a dungeon... No chimney, small court, no pump, no sewer. Yet a woman and child at her breast was sent ...the child died.*²

As we know for the women, the idea of transportation would have had a sense of the perilous as well as a sense of travelling to *new world*, new possibilities, over the oceans to a land of myth.

In reality the conditions on board were no worse than the gaols in the early period. Later when the ships were under government scrutiny the journey improved.

During this early colonial period in NSW, Britain was a maritime power and for a considerable time was at war with the French.

Flax loom and other flax spinning equipment were on the list of First Fleet supplies.

At this time flax was discovered in the colony and experiments with it for maritime purposes were conducted.

There was no thought of female factories in the first 10 years of the colony, however, there was the practical need to solve the problem of what to do with the convict women once they arrived and a substantial number of female convicts did have spinning skills.

These women were also a strain on the government purse. The result was in 1804 the first convict factory in Australia, possibly the world, began its operations in Parramatta above the men's gaol.

The Convict Female Factory women were simply convict women who, for various reasons, spent time in a convict female factory. This may simply have been because they were not assigned at the docks on arrival or it may be because they committed an offence in the colony.

The treatment and perceptions concerning them were informed by negative notions existing in early colonial times. Governor Hunter described the convict women: *... disgrace of their sex, are far worse than the men, and are generally found at the bottom of every infamous transaction committed in the colony.*³ Later Samuel Marsden noted the factory as a *grand source of moral corruption, insubordination and disease.*⁴

In contrast to these views, Thomas Reid describes the women as essentially good. While surgeon on the ship *Morley*, said of the convict women who are destined for the Female Factories in Hobart Town and Parramatta: *I cannot hesitate but to declare my conviction, that if duly protected, and not exposed to more than common temptation, they will realise the most favourable expectations, and even forever set, an example of propriety to others in their situation.*

Before disembarking 121 women signed a letter of thanks to Reid for his humanitarian attitude on board the *Morley*.

Continued page 10



Female Factory front entrance at Parramatta circa 1870. Photograph courtesy Ralph Hawkins, Society of Australian Genealogists.

Factory women were ordinary women in extraordinary circumstances

Continued from page 9

The actual profiles of the women transported don't match the common stereotype at the time, of morally degenerate, prostitutes, from a crime class, unskilled and illiterate.

The majority were not of a *crime class*. For over 90% of the women transportation was a result of first or second offences. They were mainly transported for theft.

The women brought over 180 trades with them, demonstrating their skills and industry.

Just over half of the English were literate and just under half of the Irish.

These facts present quite a different picture to the descriptions of degenerate women with little chance of reform.

The factories were called factories because each was a site of production. The women produced spun wool and flax in all the factories.

There were 13 female factories - Parramatta (2), Bathurst, Newcastle, Port Macquarie (2), Moreton Bay (2), Hobart Town, Georgetown, Cascades, Launceston and Ross.

The experience in the factories varied according to when the women were in the factory and which factory they were in.

The earliest factory still in existence is the Greenway designed Parramatta Female Factory.

This was a Governor Macquarie initiative and the second factory in the country. Over half of the factory women experienced the Parramatta Female Factories.

The factory women were ordinary women in extraordinary circumstances.

They became the business women, farmers, mothers, teachers and workers that formed Australia.

Why are the factory women significant to us now? The significance today is somewhere in the spaces between myth and reality.

The Australian perceptions of strength in adversity *we can survive anything, do anything*, mateship, lack of deference to authority and the sense of humour can be tracked to these convict women and their partners.

Also these women's stories provide the paper on which we can mythologise, construct stories of ourselves and our lives.

We can rewrite our desires to act with strength against adversity and 'survive' with a sense of empowerment. In many ways we are the stories we tell.

The factory women by living their lives through opportunity in the colony were part of a quiet revolution where they taught their children and their children's children about their rights and equity which we treasure now.

Despite little tangible evidence, outside government records, the

experiences and nature of these women has been significant in forming who we are as Australians.

As Kate Grenville describes in *Joan makes History*: There was not a single joy I could feel that countless Joans had not already felt, not a single mistake I could make that had not been made by some Joan before me... and although you may not think so to look at me, I am the entire history of the globe walking down the street...and like them all I, Joan, have made history⁵.

(Endnotes)

¹ Howard, John *The State of the Prisons in England and Wales*, William Eyres, Washington 1777, p.173

² Howard, John *The State of the Prisons in England and Wales*, William Eyres, Washington 1777, p.289

³ Hunter to Portland, 3 July *Historical Records of Australia*, Series 1, Volume 4. p.586

⁴ Marsden, Samuel Letter from Rev. Samuel Marsden to Governor Macquarie 19th July 1815

⁵ Grenville, Kate *Joan Makes History* University of Queensland Press, St Lucia 1998, pp.278-279

About the author - Gay Hendriksen

Gay Hendriksen is a Blue Mountains resident and has worked in the gallery and museum environment for 21 years including local history museums in Shellharbour and Sydney, Penrith Regional Gallery, Norman Lindsay Gallery and Museum and now Parramatta Heritage Centre.

She also curated the exhibition *Women Transported - Life in Australia's Convict Female Factories* which has won national and state awards in excellence and is currently touring 5 states.

She is also currently president of the Parramatta Female Factory Action Group which has the aim of saving the Greenway designed Parramatta Female Factory which was commissioned by Governor Macquarie and making it available for all to experience.



Last month she presented a paper at the Blue Mountains Family History Seminar.

Readers are invited to view the Parramatta Female Factory Action Group's website and take a tour with experts on the history and significance of this part of our Australian Heritage.

www.petitionbuzz.com/petitions/savethefemalefactory/o/2

Educating Hartley ... and 'not the common moral decency of a privy'

By Joan Kent

When the Hartley Public School opened its doors in 1869, Hartley was a small village developed around the 1837 stone court house to service the new police district, catering for the increasing population west of the Blue Mountains and enabling authorities to keep track of assigned convicts.

In the early 1840s there were three inns in the village which also functioned as a staging post between the gaols at Bathurst and Sydney when prisoners were being escorted on foot between the two locations.

Most residents initially lived in rudimentary slab huts on small cleared lots, on which they produced potatoes, wheat and hay for local consumption and to feed travellers and their stock en route for destinations further west.

However, apart from an increasing number of inns and small agricultural holdings, amenities were meagre and the population often transitory. By the 1850s and '60s both the Catholic and Anglican churches had been established within the village and it was within this religious sphere that most rudimentary education was provided.

The first public schooling available to children living west of the Blue Mountains was provided by the National School at Bowenfels (then known as Hassans Walls) roughly halfway between Hartley and Lithgow.

It was a small settlement served by the Eagle and Child Inn and established on the site of an earlier stockade for troopers and convicts en route to Bathurst.

The schoolhouse and residence for the school's master and mistress, built in 1851, still stand, together with a further stone building built in 1866.

Conditions were originally quite primitive; one early teacher complaining that there was 'No provision for any kind of water. It had to be begged', and 'not the common moral decency of a privy'.

Under the recently established National School Scheme, teachers were required to have attended the model school in Sydney and to be supervised by a board of local patrons.

However, a small denominational school had earlier been established in Hartley during the construction of St Bernard's Roman Catholic Church and Presbytery (1842-1848) - by 1855 it was reported that 37 pupils were in attendance.

The school comprised a schoolroom and residence of plastered vertical wooden slabs under one roof.

The number of pupils declined in the 1860s, possibly because of the setting up of a second denominational school by the Church of England, in an atmosphere of increasing sectarianism.

Although there is now no evidence of the Catholic School building, both church and presbytery still stand in a sound and admirable condition.

In 1868 the school inspector had noted the existence of an Anglican School, being 'at the Sydney entrance of the township...opposite



A half-time school the teacher alternated between two schools, sometimes on a daily basis.

the Church of England' [St. John the Evangelist] being in fact a separate part of a group of buildings formerly The Royal Hotel then rented and occupied by the Church of England Minister (Rev RH Mayne) and 'given up by him for the purpose.'

From the late 1860s until 1886, the former Royal Hotel was rented as the rectory and while it appears that the building used as a school was attached to the former inn, the exact location is not known.

There were a number of small private schools in the Little Hartley area in the mid to late 19th century when 'dame schools' were often conducted from private homes and rented premises, unfortunately leaving us little evidence of their existence.

It is however known that before 1900 a private school was run by Mr and Miss Young in a small cottage of pit sawn timbers and handmade nails, adjacent to the produce store on the highway, where it remains.

Children “in a desperate state of ignorance”

Continued from page 11

Another, only recently demolished, operated from a cottage behind ‘Bonnie Blink’, the stately 1870s’ home in Bonnie Blink Drive.

The impetus for an extension of educational facilities was afforded by the passage of the Public Schools Act, 1866 whereby the Council of Education could take over all types of public schools and grant aid to certified denominational schools.

If the school complied, the Council of Education paid the teacher’s salary and supplied ‘school materials’, often helping with building maintenance.

The discovery of gold in the Bathurst area the previous decade had resulted in a booming Hartley economy - the inns were always full with a constant flow of travellers intent on making their fortunes affording many opportunities for skilled and semi-skilled labour.

On June 24, 1868 a number of local Hartley residents applied to the Education Council to change their present Anglican denominational school into a provisional one. However, the regional inspector decided that a provisional school was not warranted and that Hartley should become a half-time school in tandem with the Dudawarra School 8 miles away.

In a half-time school the teacher alternated between two schools, sometimes on a daily basis; or teaching at one school in the morning and the other in the afternoon. This suggestion received support from the Council of Education and the necessary arrangements were put in place.

Mr H Blyth, then the teacher of Eurobodalla School, arrived in Hartley to teach in the now public schools, each morning at Hartley and each afternoon at Dudawarra, even though it involved a daily horse ride of 16 miles.

Blyth considered this necessary,



**A view of the Hartley Public School. Holterman Collection c.1871-75.
Source: ML Home & Away Videolink Still 38736.**

fearing that if he left his pupils for a full day, they would very likely go to the Catholic school, substantially reducing his salary which was paid by a £60 contribution from the Council of Education and from fees paid by the children.

There were 21 children at Hartley (some were 18 years old!) with 27 children at Dudawarra. Blyth commented that they were ‘in a desperate state of ignorance’, a situation he hoped to improve with the aid of a blackboard and easel.

This basic request was however initially refused as ‘not really necessary’ by William Wilkins, secretary of the Council of Education and hailed as one of the foremost colonial educators of the 19th century, but he finally acceded to the request with the intervention of the local inspector.

The poor standard or indeed the total lack of education in outlying areas of rural districts was a constant observation of educators for the last half of the nineteenth century and much of the early twentieth century.

This was not always helped by some poorly trained or inadequate teachers.

However within a year of his appointment, Mr Blyth left the district - and his replacement’s tenure was equally short.

The Hartley district however continued to grow - the railway linking Sydney with Bathurst had reached Mt Victoria by 1868 and began the torturous descent into Lithgow, via the Darling Causeway, Bell and the Zig Zag, opening in 1869.

The rail link allowed exploitation of the coal deposits of Lithgow Valley and Wallerawang and the development of Lithgow’s secondary industries and the central western pastoral industry.

For the Hartley Valley it was vital in the development of the oil-shale mining and retorting industries which began in Hartley Vale in the second half of 1865, utilising the rail line via a steep incline up an almost vertical face from the floor of Hartley Valley to the Sydney rail link on the Darling Causeway.

With the rapid growth in the population of Hartley Valley, the Rev Mayne approached the Council of Education for assistance in removing the school into more appropriate accommodation.

Two acres for a school site had already been donated in the Hartley Village and Rev Mayne had arranged for the purchase of a building formerly used by the fettlers working on the Great Western Line extension at One Tree Hill (later Mt Victoria) as a school for their children.

Continued page 13

Rules saw sale for £5 of One Tree Hill school building fall through

Continued from page 12

As the railway gangs and their families were moving on, all that was asked of the Council of Education was aid in moving the fettlers' building down into the Hartley Valley.

Inspector McCredie was enthusiastic about the offer but early in 1870 Rev Mayne advised that although he had agreed to buy the school building at One Tree Hill for £5, the two acre site in Hartley Village had been donated specifically to the Church of England and the Council of Education was forbidden under its' regulations to endorse the siting of the building on it.

The Council of Education could however grant aid to the school if it was a provisional (full-time) school, so the Reverend Mayne informed the council that the local residents would be entirely responsible for moving the newly purchased building and would then apply for aid for a provisional school.

By May 1870, all had been accomplished and in July the One Tree Hill building had been re-erected and all was in place to welcome the 32 children who were promised to attend.

McCredie was anxious to see the school operating as soon as

possible, still fearing that some children would be lost to the Catholic school in Hartley or the private school in Little Hartley

A local committee responsible for the upkeep and general supervision of the school had been formed consisting of the Rev Mayne and the members carefully chosen by religious affiliation, five Anglicans and one Presbyterian.

Originally fees were set at the rate of 6d per child per week but this was increased almost immediately to 1/- a week for the first child and 6d each per week for any other children in the family – quite a financial burden considering the size of 19th century families.

Events took an unexpected turn when in August 1871, a member of the school committee, James Cale advised the Council of Education that he was soon to leave the Hartley district and offered his eleven acres of land and a six-roomed house to the council for £45, an offer immediately accepted.

The building was approximately 40' by 20' with a bark roof, and was eventually to serve as the residence for the teacher and his family.

It did however involve the relocation of the school to its present site on

the corner of the Great Western Highway and Mid-Hartley Road and again removing and re-erecting the building from One Tree Hill to continue its function as the schoolhouse.

By 1875 this building required repairs – new sheets of bark, thoroughly cleaned and dressed, and supported by 12' saplings, replaced the old bark.

The chimney was bricked inside with a 'tin' exterior and a two-rail 5' paling fence kept out stray animals, goats then as now proving a considerable nuisance.

But despite the repairs, it was apparent that a new building was required. The Council of Education at first declined to act due to limited finances, but in May 1880 the local school board laid before the council the reasons why a new building was necessary – the school was in a 'ruinous and dangerous state', made only 'of bark and boards', formerly the accommodation for the 'use of the navvies' children when making the railway line...and removed here about 10 years ago and was only temporary when put up'. They declared it to be 'positive cruelty to send children to such a barn as all other parts had good schools'.

Towards the end of 1881 construction had begun by Messrs. Armstrong & Armstrong of Hartley Vale on a fine new brick building which still stands in situ. The old schoolroom remarkably was sold for £5/10/-.

There has been a good deal of confusion regarding the early buildings, their location and history, but it is now clear that the schoolmaster's house, formerly the original dwelling on the eleven acres purchased in 1871, stood empty for many years after 1911 when it was decided that as the attendance was unlikely to increase, the expenditure of £161 on maintenance was not warranted.

Continued page 14



Hartley Court House around which the village developed. Photograph by John Leary, OAM - October 2009.

Hartley School finally closes in 1971

Continued from page 13

It was considered preferable to appoint a single man as schoolmaster who could find accommodation in the Hartley or Hartley Vale villages.

Thereafter married teachers often occupied the school residence in Hartley Vale when it was not required for Hartley Vale School.

In 1939 the schoolmaster's residence was moved to Hartley Village, functioning firstly as a residence and workshop operated by EA Corney & Sons.

When a new and more substantial building was constructed post World War 2, the old building, afterwards known as Corney's Cottage, was relocated to a site below Corney's Garage.

Now mounted on brick piers, the weatherboards were replaced in the

1960s by asbestos cement sheets. Latterly it has undergone a program of conservation and maintenance, including the reinstatement of external weatherboards which had been removed and re-used to line the internal walls of the 'new' garage.

Hartley School continued to operate, apart from two years during World War 2, finally closing its doors in April 1971 following the significant decision by the then Department of Education to close many small rural schools and 'bus' students to larger centres, in this case Lithgow.

However, the tradition of building removal and re-erection continued when the present recreation hall was moved to the school site from Hartley Historic Village on June 3, 1974 during the realignment of the Great Western Highway through Hartley.

It continues the function of the Old Hartley School as a meeting place and focus for the community.

Endnotes:

- Merle Peters, *Sketchbook to Hartley* Hartley Historic Site – Conservation Management Plan, pp45-111
- Hartley Historic Site – Landscape Conservation Plan 2006
- Jim Fletcher, *The History of Hartley Public School 1869-1911*, booklet reprinted August 1969
- R Ian Jack, *Heritage Study: City of Greater Lithgow Draft Thematic History, September 1996*
- Website: Centre for Learning Innovation - Early History
- Iris Paridaens & Steve Roach, *Lithgow and Hartley Valley Sketchbook, 1978*
- SANSW, NRS 12419 Public Works Special Bundles, 1846-1963
- SANSW, Public Works, Correspondence 1877 [2/1894 part].

25th year celebrations for Lithgow Family History Society

The Lithgow Family History Society Inc. celebrated its 25th anniversary since foundation with a well attended function.

One of the highlights of the

afternoon was the awarding of life membership to Kathleen Brennan for her outstanding work as librarian a position she has held for 22 years. Pictured are some of those attending the luncheon.



Foundation members who were present at the luncheon - back: Jan Saundercock, Sandra Haley, Jean Perry, Phyllis Mason, Neville Morgan, and Laurie Cook - seated; Fay Hasler, Thelma Draper, Eleanor Martin, and Helen Taylor.



Secretary Laurie Cook and treasurer Margaret Buckley.



Margaret and John Buckley.



Neville Morgan and Hilda Kirkwood.

TURF RACING CONNECTIONS

In the last issue of *HERITAGE* an article by John Broadley president of the Mudgee Historical Society Inc. appeared about the connections between early Mudgee and the turf racing industry.

BMACHO's secretary, Jan Koperberg has a distant connection with Poseidon a horse from Mudgee which won the Melbourne Cup in 1906.

Jan advises that her mother's second cousin, Tommy Clayton, won the Caulfield Cup and Melbourne Cup in 1906, thanks to Poseidon.

"It was a first for the double. Poseidon and Tommy Clayton won the Caulfield Cup again in 1907, another first for two Caulfield Cups in a row," Jan said

"Tommy died in 1909 from injuries received in a 12 horse fall when riding "All Blue" in the Trial Stakes at Rosehill.

"He was only 29 and died before my mother was born.

"Although he was my mother's second cousin, he was born the same year as my mother's mother. Tommy was on my mother's father's side," says Jan.

PATCHWORK TO HONOUR ANCESTORS

Members of Lithgow and District Family History Society are currently designing a wall hanger which will be made up of 7 inch calico squares and will have embroidered on them the names of their pioneer ancestors.

The squares will be sewn into a patchwork wall hanger to be displayed at the Lithgow Library Learning Centre for Heritage Week.

It will then be available for display at all the society's functions.

Dynamic duo to 'call it a day'

The energetic and very personable couple who as president and secretary have successfully led the Kurrajong – Comleroy Historical Society for a number of years have announced they will not seek re-election to the committee.

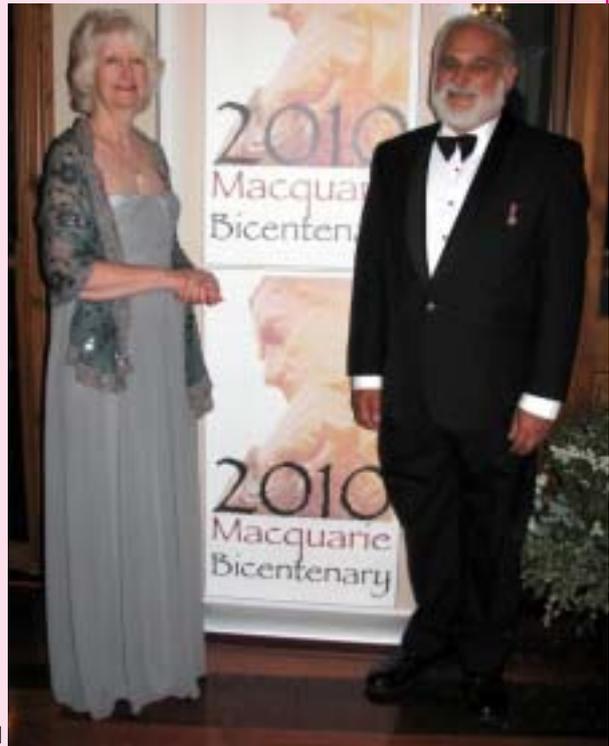
The society's president, Frank Holland and secretary, Valerie Holland have indicated they will

not be available for office at the elections to be held during the society's annual general meeting in September.

The Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society is one of the largest and most active historical societies in the region.

Much of the success in the short decade history of the society has been because of Frank and Val's ability to encourage others in the community to give of their best.

The society has held regular annual dinners. The formal dinner last December to mark the



Valerie and Frank Holland at the Lachlan Macquarie bicentenary dinner last December.

bicentenary of Lachlan Macquarie's visit to the district was an outstanding success with well over 120 guests in attendance.

The guest of honour was the Governor of NSW, Professor Marie Bashir, AC, CVO.

Announcing their decision, Frank said: The time has come where we will shortly need to make some lifestyle decisions that will require a good deal of our time and we will not be in a position to give the society the attention it deserves."

An artist in the gardens

An exhibition by local artist, Alison Jane Rice is to commemorate the opening of the upgraded gallery at Everglades.

The exhibition will be open on Sunday, June 12 between 10am and 4pm

Her works celebrate the persistence of nature in capturing and luxuriating in what will always belong to the earth.

Also available is Alison's much anticipated children's book *The Legend of Prince Farty Barty & His Sacred Bum Bum Tree*

The exhibition will also open weekends and during the week by appointment. Cost: adult \$8, concession \$6, child \$4.

For further information 4784 1938

Successful seminar

Boat People – 1788 to 1922 was a successful seminar held by Blue Mountains Family History Society last month at Springwood.

About 50 people attended the seminar, made up of members from the Blue Mountains district and interested family historians and historians from other areas.

Christine Yeats, manager, public access, State Records NSW, spoke about *Convicts and Colonists: An overview of the boat people 1788 – 1922*.

Gay Hendriksen, curator and author, chose for her topic, *The sweet, the sour, the seditious...and the swashbuckling. From British prison to the shores of NSW and the convict female factory, women met the challenges of transportation*.

Ray Thorburn OAM spoke about the Scottish passages, the different waves of people brought from Scotland by various schemes, why they came, their journeys, where they settled and what they did for a living.

After lunch Jim Low, singer/songwriter/author entertained the group with songs he has written about Australia.

The last speaker of the day was Gary Luke from the Australian Jewish Historical Society. Gary spoke about European and Jewish immigration.

Contributed by Jan Koperberg, president, BMFHS



Gay Hendriksen, Curator, Parramatta Heritage Centre.

New museum advisor

Blue Mountains City Council has been successful in gaining a further year's funding to deliver a part time museum advisory service.

The role of museum advisor has been taken over by Lynn Collins, who brings with him relevant experience in historic houses and museums, coupled with a strong art practice

Lynn has also recently been engaged as museum advisor to Lithgow City Council and this will help strengthen the networks between museums across a large part of BMACHO's constituency.

The Museums and Galleries website which registers consultants states: "With a diverse background in education, the visual arts and museum sectors, Lynn Collins is both an enthusiast and pragmatist in negotiating progressive, expressive arts ventures and local history projects, raising community awareness, operational standards and support for arts enterprises in the process.

"He is a good listener who enjoys creative, collaborative ventures applying exacting standards accumulated from 16 years as a curator and manager at six sites with the Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales (1990-2005); preceded by executive-directorial



Lynn Collins

roles at the Jam Factory Crafts Training Workshops and Crafts Council of South Australia (1982-1989); through broad experiences in teaching from primary through to tertiary levels (1965-1980); and from 40 years as a practicing visual artist.

"As the regular visual arts-crafts commentator with the *Adelaide Advertiser* (1984-1989) then with various, mostly populist journals, he promotes excellence and diversity in the arts, and also encourages strategic, relevant, cross-disciplinary partnerships."

Lynn replaces Shar Jones who has resigned after a lengthy absence and continued ill health.



Ray Thorburn, OAM spoke about the different waves of people who came from Scotland. Ray was appointed founding director of the Australian Genealogical Education Centre at Kiama in 1988, retiring in November, 2006.



Christine Yeats, manager, public access, State Records of NSW and Ian Kendall, Blue Mountains Family History's treasurer and master of ceremonies for the day.

Sheep and Shearing

Their Evolution and Contribution to Australia



Sheep and Shearing, self published by Robert Ellis takes a broad overview of the sheep industry over the years culminating in the industry today that encompasses some of the best wool and prime lamb available in the world.

The ups and downs of the wool industry certainly mirror Australia's harsh climate as well as the personal likes and dislikes of individuals who played a major part in the development of the breed of sheep over the past 200 years.

Ellis has written about the influence on blood lines by the Macarthurs, Merrimans, Faulkners and some of the lesser known successful breeders

Wool has played a major role in the financial prosperity of Australian society as well as the social fabric of our country.

The book covers the role played by early squatters, shearers, shepherds, drovers, bullock drivers, cameleers and donkey drivers who brought the wool bales to rail heads or barge loading sites. Finally he covers the history of sheep dogs

The range of photographs in this book gives a pictorial history of the breeds, the shearing equipment and the transport of wool bales from the outback by camel to river barges.

Available by enquiry to Mrs McMahon-Noff at e-mail bellbird@hotmail.net.au

Kurrajong Collections

Kurrajong Collections is the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society's second pictorial coffee table book.

It includes selections from The Woodhill Collection (circa 1890-1900s) held by the Mitchell Library.

The University of Sydney archives contributed an image circa 1863, possibly amongst the first photographs taken in the area, and Mount Tomah Botanic Garden provided images from "The Jungle".

Other images from the National Library Collection give an insight into the eccentric William Hardy Wilson's vision for Kurrajong

Other unpublished photographs were provided from the society's collection, contributed by members and friends.

In his foreword to this edition, Alan Davies, curator of photographs at the State Library of New South Wales writes: "...*This wonderful evocative book brings together an important collection of historical photographs from the Mitchell Library and other sources, to*



reveal the changing face of Kurrajong, a small village about an hour north west of Sydney, at the foothills of the Blue Mountains ... Kurrajong Collections is an important work today. In another century, it will provide a trail to follow for our great grand children, directing them not only to a life in Kurrajong in the 19th and early 20th century, but also to how we viewed the past through our 21st century eyes.

This book brings history just a little closer within reach."

To order send a cheque to Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society PO Box 174 Kurmond rrp \$28 plus \$5 postage.

EAT HISTORY

History Week theme 2011

The theme for History Week 2011 will be EAT History. History Week 2011 to be held September 3-11 will bring to the table the edible, appetising and tasty history of food. Who ate what and where in the past? How did we cook and where did our food come from?

History Week 2011 will be a smorgasbord of delectable delights!

History Week was initiated by the History Council of NSW in 1997 to showcase the rich, diverse history being produced by organisations and individuals across the state.

With over 200 events across NSW, History Week is about celebrating the best in community and

professional history, highlighting its role in our cultural life and inviting people to get involved.

During History Week, community groups, local councils, libraries, archives, museums, universities, cultural institutions, professional and amateur historians across NSW open their doors to present the latest in today's historical research - fascinating stories, artefacts and experiences about both our past and ourselves today.

For more information and ideas for activities visit <http://www.historycouncilnsw.org.au/history-week/history-week>

North Springwood's earliest orchards thrived with ideal climate, rainfall and soil

By Lindsay Paish, Springwood Historians

North Springwood had an advantage over the traditional farming areas around Sydney because the climate is tolerable in summer and winter.

The average rainfall of about 125mm falls in autumn and spring provides ideal growing conditions for all types of produce, particularly fruit.

The soil derives from an outcropping of Wianamatta Shale that extends along the crest of the ridge from Springwood to Winmalee, providing a reasonable amount of fertility but with a harsh clay sub-soil. Soils around Hawkesbury Heights and Yellow Rock tend to be leached sandstone that is not nearly as rich.

The early explorers first noted evidence of the fertility of the area, and the 'woods,' as described by Blaxland and Macquarie, which clearly defined the limits of the good soil.

Such evidence is still apparent in the forests of Blue Gum *Eucalyptus deanei* and Ironbark around the Blue Mountains City Council depot and Buckland Village and in many places along Hawkesbury Road.

After the first flush of expansion westward from Sydney, following the crossing of the mountains in 1813, development took place in Springwood with the advent of the railway in 1864.

However, it was not until the late 1880s and early 1890s that viable farming developed in the North Springwood area. In all, about fifteen farms extended along the length of Hawkesbury Road and at Yellow Rock.

Initially, the pioneers who took up land established orchards as a matter of course and most notable was J.T. Ellison and Honore Marie.

In these early days, everyone who came as residents of the area established a few fruit trees and a chook yard to supply the everyday needs of the household.



Grapes being grown on trellises at the Greenheys orchard. Elisha Wiggins is in the foreground, circa 1880s - 1890s. Photograph courtesy Blue Mountains City Council Local Studies Image files.

The larger farms however, concentrated on earning a living from the land and the orchardists developed areas for fruit growing with great success.

Being virgin country isolated from the other horticultural areas, they produced some of the finest fruit for the Sydney market; top quality disease free apples, stone fruit – even persimmons – and some of the healthiest profitable citrus orchards in NSW.

These areas declined however, after World War 1, because of the growth of Batlow and the North Coast orchard areas together with improved transport for the produce.

Passionfruit produced in the area still held pride of place at the Sydney markets up to the end of the World War 2. The area produced the finest and earliest fruit for the market.

Despite the relatively good soils, there was a need for good husbandry. It has been recorded that Ellison successfully treated his orchard by mulching and enriching with yearly supplies of fresh soil but no manure.

Similarly, Henry Charles Lennox Anderson, one-time director of

NSW Department of Agriculture, studied and experimented with chemical fertilisers on his White Cross property.

He concluded that if applied in the proper manner, chemicals were productive of great and lasting good, but warned that the land must be fully tested so that its wants may be supplied without waste of chemicals.

Present day trends however, lean towards a more conservative approach away from chemicals toward a more organic method similar to what Ellison originally used.

Many of the original properties had small orchards; Buckland Hospital provided fresh fruit for its patients and the tuberculosis hospital, Lynton Lodge, had a number of trees. Cordingley's farm, ultimately Bill Morgan's, had an orchard in conjunction with his poultry farm.

The White Cross property of the McCredie family (owned later by Jack Walsh and now the Winmalee Shopping Centre) also had a fair sized orchard associated with a poultry farm. There is little doubt; most residents in the area grew a reasonable array of fruit trees.

Continued page 19

A lone pear tree near the 18th hole

Continued from page 18

The first orchard along Hawkesbury Road, owned by J.T. Ellison, was located on the present day Springwood Golf Club.

Ellison, born July 25, 1841, purchased land in Springwood in 1872 at a cost of £1 (\$2) an acre.

Ellison farmed about 130 acres with some crops and a dairy but his principal pursuit was a 20 acre orchard on which he developed oranges and summer fruits.

By 1891, he was receiving much public attention for the excellence of his produce and his success was marked by the dispatch of many cases of his oranges to inland towns.

This success did not come without a lot of effort. In 1889, he was so troubled by attacks on his fruit by flying fox that he was forced to erect a 15' high fence with a network of wires that covered the whole orchard.



John Ellison and his wife Hannah. Photograph courtesy Blue Mountains City Council Local Studies Image files.

He also battled the weather; a wind storm in December 1890 did so much damage that the ground was literally covered with young fallen fruit. The only reminder of Ellison's endeavour is a lone pear tree near the 18th hole.

The next orchard along Hawkesbury Road was located north of the golf links on what is known as the Golf Links Estate. The property was developed by GA Lloyd in 1920 and was eventually acquired by the Bennett family, who, much later, ran a pig farm on the area.

Samuel Lees, one-time mayor of Sydney, purchased the property of William Lawson (the explorer) which later became St. Columba's College.

He attempted to sub-divide the land, selling 7 acres to William Ipkendanz in 1894. Ipkendanz developed an orchard on the site and built 'Elmhurst.'

The property was eventually acquired by the Catholic Diocese in the early part of the 20th century. Today, St Thomas Aquinas Primary School occupies the front portion of the property, while the high school is located in the old college buildings to the rear.

Adjoining the college grounds another orchard was developed by R Stefansson in 1920 on the land now covered by Paulwood Avenue. The old cottage 'Sulitelma' still stands fronting Hawkesbury Road.

In 1920, James Wood acquired the land on the corner of Halcyon Avenue and Hawkesbury Road then owned by Irwin Turnbull of Windsor. Wood established a large citrus orchard and the trees were still evident in the early 1950s.

The Hawkesbury Road was not always a smooth well-formed road and in earlier times it was described as a disaster because the surface was constantly breaking up.

No cars or trucks used the road when the first orchardists arrived; to get their produce to Sydney they harnessed the horse and cart, loaded their fruit, and set off for Springwood Station. The journey often took over an hour each way along what was little more than a rough potholed track.

Norton Neave of Larke, Neave and Hoskins, car distributors, purchased land which is now Summerhayes Park and built the cottage

'Hiawatha.' In conjunction with the development of the land, he established an orchard at the rear of the house in the location of the present-day football ovals.

Further along Hawkesbury Road, where the present-day Winmalee High School now stands, Honore Marie built a small cottage known as 'Bombanoi' and planted a vineyard. No doubt many a fine vintage was produced from his vines. Marie had been the head warder of a prison in Noumea.

He also owned land opposite the Turnbull Estate and after the land had changed hands a number of times, George Mills became the owner. He established an orchard. Nellie, one of his daughters, became Mrs Stan Goddard, an old North Springwood identity.

Finally, the land opposite Simpson's Cottage (the present-day stone ruin at the top of the hill just before the Hawkesbury Lookout) was taken up by Annie Wheatley.

Annie, her husband and Tom Berry conducted a store in Springwood (present-day Springwood Mall) and ran the North Springwood land as an apple orchard.

Jo Booker took up land right out at the lookout with the aim of developing a passionfruit orchard because the Springwood area was so conducive to orcharding. The project never eventuated due to the advent of drought and the war.

Passionfruit was also the main farming activity in the Yellow Rock area where some of the best fruit was produced for the Sydney market.

In 1880, William Rayner was the first to set up in the area and built the cottage 'Evandale.' The family also ran a store in Springwood.

The property was managed by Elisha Wiggins, an apiarist from Bee Farm Road Springwood. The Evandale orchard produced some of the finest disease free apples and many other varieties of fruit including persimmons, which were said to be a 'treat to behold.'

Continued page 20

Loss of life as bushfires destroy farms

Continued from page 19

At one stage Rayner established a nursery and issued a neat little catalogue of fruit trees and vines. The property was finally owned by Jo Amarous who continued passionfruit farming after World War 2.

Closer in to Singles Ridge Road an Andrews family also ran a profitable passionfruit farm. Both properties were eventually purchased by Newports who developed the area as a nursery complex.

The soil, climate, and rainfall was also suitable for nurseries and in the period 1970 - 1980 North Springwood (now Winmalee) had approximately ten flourishing nursery businesses.

In 1918, RV Purvines, a relative of the Baxter family, held a large block of land at the end of what is now known as Purvines Road. He set up a small farm and began growing passionfruit.

The farm was all but wiped out and Mrs Purvines died during the bushfires of 1951. The only son Bob remained to redevelop the farm with wife Terry.

The only bushfire fighting equipment in the area in those days was an old Bedford truck owned by Reg Wheatley that carried a 'ship's' square tank of water on the back.

The lack of a volunteer bushfire brigade meant that protection of property was largely left up to the residents who did their best with what they had.

Just after Rayner began his farming enterprise, an English migrant by the name of DW Parker took up land adjacent to the present Illingworth Road and set it up as an orchard.

His farming venture didn't last long - due to the illness of his wife - but he started the first post office in North Springwood (now Winmalee), on the corner of Singles Ridge and Hawkesbury Roads.

James Baxter took up his land in 1890 and was one of the first to establish a viable passionfruit farm.



William Ipkendanz developed an orchard and built Elmhurst (pictured) in the mid 1890s. Photograph courtesy of Blue Mountains City Council Local Studies Image file.

He also grew vegetables for the Sydney market.

James only had one arm, losing the other in a shooting accident.

He had eight sons including Harold, Warwick and Norman, who operated a timber mill and were all well known in the area as champion axemen.

The next orchard in the Yellow Rock area was owned by the Fuller family who grew passionfruit, and a fine collection of summer fruits including peaches, pears and plums. It was reputed to be the best orchard in the area.

On the north, next door to the Fuller family, was the property of Holyer Fog. In the early 1930s, during the depression, Holyer Fog sent 500 cases of passionfruit to market and received just £25. Around the same time the jam manufacturers were only paying sixpence for a chaff bag full of passionfruit.

A large number of people were involved in orcharding during the hey-days of North Springwood as well as a number of vegetable gardens, poultry farms and dairies. Gradually, however, the viability of these farms decreased and ultimately fell into disuse when they were forced to compete with produce from the North Coast and inland and with a steady influx of pests and disease.

Although the land is still capable of producing good quality produce, the tide of residential development has overtaken the area. The land now grows homes not fruit while in some areas hobby farmers play at life on the land

About the author

The author, 85 year old Lindsay Paish is a former Forestry Department cartographer, now member of the Springwood Historians. Although now not in the best of health he wrote this article several years ago and knows the area of Springwood and its farms from long experience.

He has previously contributed to **HERITAGE** with an article on Lieutenant William Dawes who has been credited with being the first white man on the Blue Mountains drawing a map of the area in 1791.

Old barns in the Hawkesbury

'Old Barns of the Hawkesbury' will be the subject about which Graham and Carol Edds will speak at the next meeting of Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society on Monday, May 23.

For further information
frank.holland@bigpond.com.au

Spire restoration wins National Trust award

Renovation of the spire of St James Church, Sydney in continuous use since February 11, 1824 was recognised in the National Trust Heritage 2011 awards last month.

Restorers found ordinance marks on the orb and cross, probably stamped into the copper by the convicts who built the church

The St James Church restoration cost \$1.3 million. Funded by donations and grants, it took a year to complete.

"There wasn't anything about this project that came easily or simply," said Greg Brown, a principal of the Sydney Restoration Company (a small Sydney firm also engaged to do restoration work at Wynstay, Mt Wilson).

"But it was extremely pleasurable. To be able to put your hands on an ordinance mark from the 1820s ... I don't know that I'll ever get to do a job like this again," Mr Brown said.

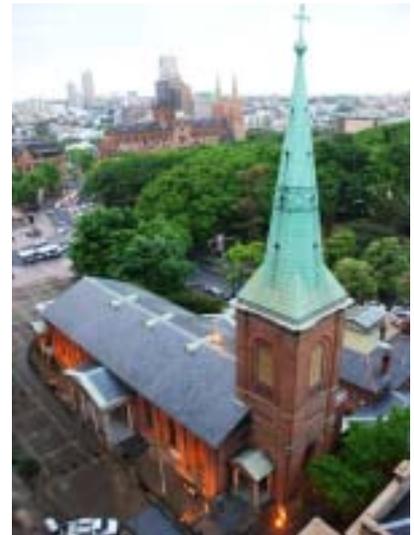
The restorers used similar techniques to the convicts. It was too costly to close streets during restoration so scaffolding was built up to and around the spire.

The deterioration of the framework of the orb and cross meant it could not be repaired in place so ropes and pulleys were used to lower the assembly.

Restorers then worked on the orb and cross by hand. There was no machinery.

The timber sarking beneath the copper of the spire was repaired and new copper used, with the patterns of the original work replicated.

Although not the first Anglican church in the colony, St James is now the oldest church in the Sydney CBD. It is in this church, the beginning of the legal year is marked with a service attended by the Supreme Court justices in



ceremonial costume. The church has also been associated with the most distinguished Order of St Michael and St George since 1950.

Source:

<http://www.sydneyrestoration.com.au>,
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_James_Church,_Sydney, *The Sydney Morning Herald* April 5, 2011

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 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 2011-12 is: Pamela Smith (president), Ian Jack (vice president), Jan Koperberg (secretary), Joan Kent (treasurer), Jean Arthur, Doug Knowles, John Leary, Dick Morony (public officer), Kathie McMahan-Nolf, Barrie Reynolds and Peter Stanbury.

HONORARY AUDITOR: Sue McMahan, B Comm CPA.

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