

HERITAGE

NEWSLETTER OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION
OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

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Lithgow Council underwrites funding for Cox Road signage

LITHGOW CITY COUNCIL has agreed to the installation of signage along the Cox's Road and will consider allocating \$20,000 in 2013-14 management plan for the signage if state and federal government funding is not forthcoming.

The interpretive signage along the Cox's Road is part of the Blue Mountains crossing commemoration activities planned for 2013-15.

The road crosses through the Penrith, Blue Mountains, Oberon, Lithgow and Bathurst local government areas (LGAs).

There are still remnants of the road, which was built by William Cox and his crew of convicts in 1814, along which Governor Lachlan Macquarie in 1815 travelled to the site where he proclaimed the township of Bathurst.

Lithgow Council is seeking funding in stages in order to have all signage installed by 2015.



Information board, Oberon LGA

Patsy Moppett, the convenor of the National Trust's Cox's Road Project Committee (CRPC), has advised the Blue Mountains Crossing Bicentenary Committee of Lithgow City Council that Oberon Council already has signage in place funded by the Australian Government's Department of Heritage.

Ms Moppett also told the committee that Blue Mountains City Council and Bathurst City Council are seeking funding over the next two years to install signage in their local government areas.

The Cox's Road Project Committee has undertaken to co-ordinate mapping of the road and development of appropriate signage.

The Cox's Road Steering Committee was formed in July 2006 to look at long term objectives and mechanisms to preserve the 1814 Cox's Road alignment between Emu Plains and the Blue Mountains and Bathurst.

Convenor of the committee, Patsy Moppett has told *HERITAGE*, the committee was formed with delegates from the Lithgow, Blue Mountains and Bathurst branches of the National Trust, and operates under the auspices of the Trust as an informal committee.

"The CRPC sought to eventually establish a heritage walk or trail over parts of this route through some of the most beautiful countryside in Australia, and has sought to have the remnants of the road listed on the State Heritage Register. The NSW Heritage Office gave preliminary approval for this listing in April 2011.



Route signage in Oberon LGA

150-years for NSW Police Force

NSW POLICE FORCE will have served as a unified force for 150 years on March 1, this year.

Five police forces, the military mounted police, civil mounted police, gold police, mounted road patrols and rural constabulary, operated in the region between Emu Plains and the Cox's River from 1829 to 1862.

During the 1920s bushrangers and clashes between settlers and Aborigines were a growing law and order problem.¹

¹ Chinn, Peter. *The Thin Red and Blue Lines*, Springwood Historical Society Inc. 2006

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An opinion from the editor.....

Darug, Daruk, Dharug, Dharuk or Darkiñung?

IN the August – September 2011 edition of **HERITAGE**, I opined that now might be the time to encourage local historians and those interested in cultural heritage to better engage with living members of the indigenous people so that assistance may be provided for future generations.

In that *Opinion* I indicated both the Dharug and Gundungurra people are known to have inhabited this region well before the coming of Europeans and a great many of them still live in the Blue Mountains region. New findings in a study publicly released in August 2011 seem to challenge conventional wisdom in this statement.

In a 2010 postgraduate history thesis researched at Sydney University, Dr Geoff Ford suggests that the Aborigines of the Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury / Grose River catchments at the time of settlement were *Darkiñung*, recorded as bordering the mountain *Gundungurra* people from the Wollondilly / Cox River catchments to their south.

HERITAGE's *Opinion* lacks the capacity to provide informed comment on the locale of Aboriginal people in this region, other than to suggest there are other bodies of research contrary to this view.

Ford places insistence on the spelling of Darug, Daruk, Dharug and Dharuk commonly in use when identifying Aboriginal people in various localities. However, colonial attempts to record what Aboriginal people seemed to say, must at least have been described as unscientific.

There was no accepted phonetic system for transcription while there was no 'correct' spelling of English itself until 1755 when *A Dictionary of the English Language*, (Johnson's *Dictionary*) was produced.

The new study, 'Darkiñung Recognition', may be examined in more than 30 public libraries. A digital copy is available online from the

University of Sydney library (at URL: <http://ses.library.usyd.edu.au/handle/2123/7745>).

Public scrutiny of Dr Ford's thesis is highly desirable as it may bring on further scholarly debate

In the 1970s, society deemed it to be appropriate to replace the word 'Aborigine' with another noun for Aboriginal persons in parts of NSW, *Kuri*.

Then, as we approached the 1988 bicentenary of settlement, family history flourished, with the removal of the stigma of having either convict or Aboriginal heritage

As we approach the 2013 bicentenary of the Blue Mountains crossing some historians might see it as an appropriate time to revisit earlier research about the traditional identity of the Aboriginal people in NSW.

But to do so without further intense consultation with the Aboriginal elders and their community lacks sensitivity.

Generations of Aborigines have believed in the spelling and identity which they have been perhaps given by Europeans.

This does not mean that consultation should not occur during the Western crossings commemorations 2013-2015. There are in the community most articulate well-informed spokespeople for the Aboriginal community and they should be given every opportunity to be heard.

WELL DONE LITHGOW

Congratulations to Lithgow City Council on forming a Section 355 committee to oversee activities for the 'bicentenary of the western crossing in 2013-15'.

The ready, no-nonsense acceptance of the aspirations of the local community and offer to work with volunteers as equals is inspiring and how local government should work.

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

The coming of the motor car...

by John Leary, OAM

ALTHOUGH MECHANICS and engineers had been experimenting with alternatives to horse-drawn carriages as far back as the design for the Cugnot steam trolley of 1769; most define that as the first "real" automobile produced by Amédée Bollée in 1873, who built self-propelled steam road vehicles to transport groups of passengers.¹

Motorised vehicles probably made their first Australian appearance in Melbourne about 1900.

At first they were praised for being faster and cleaner than horses.

However, their noise, speed and fumes frightened horses and left pedestrians ducking for cover. People complained of 'road hogs' who recklessly sped through the streets endangering all in their path.

To control the motorised horde, in 1916 Melbourne City Council had imposed new restrictions. Vehicles had to travel on the left-hand side of the road in not more than two lanes. When stopping, a hand or a whip had to be raised.

In the following years hand signals for turning were imposed, along with time restrictions on parking.

Initially considered a toy for the wealthy, the ownership of motor vehicles increased most markedly after the First World War.²



Pictured outside the Hartley Court House on a trip to Jenolan Caves 1930. On back of photo mount: Souvenir of our trip to Jenolan Caves 1930. Vehicle: Belgian Fabrique Nationale 1918 Front: Driver in dust coat, Mrs Cubitt Rear: Miss May Cubitt, Mr Quincey Adams of Dubbo, Master Cubitt. Blue Mountains City Library.

The distinction of being one of Australia's first motorists to be booked for speeding, biscuit mogul RH Arnott was fined 10 shillings (\$1) for travelling down a Sydney street at 13 km/h

The first driver's license to be issued in Australia was on September 10, 1906 to William Hargreaves of Woodville, South Australia.³

Dr Peter C Rickwood writing in the *Hobby's Outreach*, under the titles "The First Car Over the Mountains" August-September 2010 and "A

Sequel to 'The First Car over the Mountains'", concludes from his extensive research that the first motor car to cross the Blue Mountains did so on September 29, 1901

Crossing the Blue Mountains was part of a journey made in a 3-seater 5.5hp Delahaye by William Gordon Dixon accompanied by WG Hamilton went at least as far as Bathurst.⁴

In 1832 Major Mitchell built a road from Mount Victoria to Hartley to replace the dangerous grades of Bathurst Road built by William Cox.

This new road made it possible to travel safely via horse-drawn vehicles.

However, not foreseeing some 72 years into the future in 1904, the first motor car to travel down Victoria Pass required the assistance of a horse to be able to get back to the top.⁵

The "Roaring Twenties" was characterised by a spirit of optimism and progress. The austere war years had come to an end, and for many Australians life improved.



An open tourer driving the Jenolan Caves Road on the old Hartley bridge over the River Lett circa late 1920s early 30s. Broadhurst Collection. Contributed by Paul Cardow

Continued page 4

Horse drawn Coaches made the 2-day trip to Jenolan Caves

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Mass production and technological advances increased consumerism, materialism and modernisation.

Shorter working hours, improvements in public transport and a surge in car manufacture and ownership changed the way Australians spent their leisure time.

The introduction of radio and the growth of dance halls and picture palaces met the growing demand for entertainment and recreation.

The figure of the 'flapper', with her short skirts and bobbed hair became a metaphor for the pursuit of pleasure and novelty which characterised the decade, as well as the rapid changes in social and moral attitudes and values.

With the coming of the motor car Jenolan Caves and other sites in the Blue Mountains were but a short distance by touring motor car from the holiday towns of Katoomba, Blackheath, Medlow Bath and others.

Entrepreneurs in the Blue Mountains soon realised taking a tour in a motor car was a great adventure.

One of those was Robert Rolfe who in 1889 had set up a business transporting tourists by horse drawn coaches.

Coaches made the 2-day trip to Jenolan Caves on a regular timetable, it being the usual custom for passengers to walk up the steep grades to ease the strain on the horses.

By 1911 the Rolfes had moved their business to Blackheath and expanding their business had progressed from horse drawn coaches to motor vehicles.

Rolfe's tourist business had as many as 13 cars housed at Blackheath and employed in the fledgling tourist industry.

Robert Rolfe died in 1942 and the tourist and taxi business was finally sold in 1956.⁶

Another early operator was Stefan (known as Sid) Josef Siedlecky who also saw the potential in touring cars, when he set up a business in 1919.

One of 'Sid's' early cars was a Cadillac. He also bought a Cole which was a powerful 10 seater, 8 cylinder car. He was the first person to drive a car down into Megalong Valley.⁷

A fleet of 'Italia' cars owned by Joyton-Smith garaged at the Carrington also took visitors to the Jenolan Caves;

The economic depression of the 1920s and 30s and the coming of the private car saw a downwards effect on the tourist trade.

Early motorists faced many challenges, not the least of all being the condition of roads which had been built for horse and cart.

Motor cars were notoriously unreliable and there were no such thing as a roadside garage.

Maintenance and navigation equipment such as puncture repair kits had to be packed for the trip.

Before the 1920s in Australia even fuel had to be carried as there were few petrol outlets

REFERENCES

¹ Eckerman, Erik (2001) *World History of the Automobile*

² Museum Victoria

³ Stuart Nicol, Bullock Tracks and Bitumen, RAA 1978 p39

Professional Historians Association (SA) 1956

⁴ Rickwood PC, *A Sequel to The First Car over the Mountains*. Hobby's Outreach, 22(5): December 2010 - January 2011, pp.7 & 9.

⁵ www.bluemountainsaustralia.com

⁶ Rotary Club of Blackheath (2005) *Blackheath: today from yesterday*. 'The Rolfe's' contributed by Mrs O Campbell. Writelight. 2005.

⁷ Rotary Club of Blackheath (2005) *Blackheath: today from yesterday*. 'Siedlecky' contributed by Dr Stefania Siedlecky. Writelight. 2005.



"Why Walk?" was one of the vehicles in the fleet of motorised cars used by Rolfe's Motor Service in Blackheath, c. 1920s. Photograph courtesy of Bill Ward

High tea

Enjoy the ambience of the Art Deco dining room at Everglades House and Gardens, Leura, high tea being served on Saturday and Sundays, January 28 and 29 and February 26 between 2.30pm and 4pm.

Visitors may wander through the magnificent gardens and explore the 1930s house before high tea

Booking essential to Anita 4784 1974 or Liz 0418 206 899.

Cost \$25 National Trust member, \$30 adult, \$10 child

An intriguing character comes to the Blue Mountains

by Paul Innes

EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, an intriguing character comes into our lives, and in late 1911 – just over 100 years ago – such a character arrived in the Blue Mountains.

The intriguing character in question was a gentleman named James Joynton – Smith, more commonly known as 'Joynton'.

In late October 1911, Joynton – Smith purchased Katoomba's Carrington Hotel, and he immediately made his presence known. Within a week of buying the hotel from Mr Peacock, Joynton put the weekly tariff up from £2/16/- to £3.

Many more changes were about to take place at the Carrington Hotel, but before describing these, it's worth taking a peak into Joynton's life before he came to the Blue Mountains.

Born James John Smith in 1858... "a vintage year for babies..."¹, the future owner of the Carrington Hotel spent his early years in London's East End. There, he learnt a great deal about human nature and business.

One thing he did perceive was that his name was too common. In order to get noticed, he eventually decided it would be best to change his middle name... "to the debonair name of Joynton. The James John Smiths who might infest directories, telephone books and electoral rolls would no longer crowd me."² he said.

Then, wishing to leave the East End... "a place crowded with people haggling over pence..."³ Joynton told his family he wanted to emigrate to one of the colonies. Signing on as a third cook aboard the 'Port Chalmers', Joynton set sail for New Zealand in 1874.

Once in New Zealand, Joynton worked on board several ships. Gradually he realised that all the money on board ship seemed to

come from the shore. this made him decide that ... "one day I would leave the ship and tap this wealth at its source."⁴

Over a number of years while he developed his business skills on land, Joynton learnt two valuable lessons. One was to avoid alcohol; the other was to pay off debts.

As an assistant barman at the Port Chalmers Hotel, Joynton soon discovered that many men came into the bar abiding by the drinking code 'never have one alone'.

Suddenly realising he was cultivating the habit of drinking, Joynton put in "the plug" adding... "although I've been associated with hotels almost all my life, I have never been a drinker. It has been the residential side, as distinct from the bar, that has interested me."⁵

Learning to pay off debts materialised not long after Joynton had purchased the Post Office Hotel, in Wellington. A local businessman, TG Macarthy informed Joynton he would prosper if he paid off debts owed to... "the little people in business who cannot afford to be out of their money. Small unpaid accounts injure a man's credit most." Furthermore, he was encouraged to... "keep your money and yourself active, and in keeping both employed, you are employing others also, and increasing prosperity."⁶

This advice seemed to pay off, for within four years of owning the Post Office Hotel, Joynton had amassed a nest egg of £10,000. Feeling the need to see his family again, and hoping to increase his wealth on a horse racing betting scheme, Joynton set sail for England in 1886.



James Joynton-Smith

However, while he succeeded in seeing his family, he lost all but £500 on the betting scheme.

Returning to New Zealand, Joynton started again, working in the secretaryship of the Cooks and Stewards Union in Wellington. This job lead him to Sydney in 1890, when at the height of the maritime strike, he resigned from the union and set up an 'Illuminated Funeral Cards' business; then needing a more secure job he accepted the position as manager of the Grand Central Coffee Palace.

Determined to get back into the hotel business for himself, Joynton began looking for a hotel to purchase.

It wasn't long till he found out that the Imperial Arcade Hotel could be secured.

In February 1896, Joynton secured the lease of both the Pitt and Castlereagh Street ends of the Arcade, eventually owning and vastly improving the entire Arcade... "in my judgement the choicest piece of real estate in Australia."⁷

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Joynton – Smith was beginning to make his mark on Sydney, and it wasn't long till he was investing time and money into other ventures, particularly buying horse racing tracks, and establishing Rugby League, in 1908.

Now, if time and space permitted we could further examine Joynton's Sydney life; his political career as an Upper House Member, and Lord Mayor of Sydney; his creation of the *Smith Weekly* newspaper; and his involvement in the establishment of South Sydney Hospital, where a wing is named after him.

'... When I saw the Blue Mountains they cast a spell over me...'

But we need to move up to the Blue Mountains...

Joynton – Smith's association with the Blue Mountains seemed to begin in the early years of the 20th century.

"When I saw the Blue Mountains, they cast their spell over me. Here, I said, is something I need ... without them I could never be happy again," he commented.

"It was Mount Victoria that particularly appealed to me. The Imperial Hotel seemed to offer what I needed, so I bought it."

"In the meantime, I bought the Carrington Hotel at Katoomba. I saw that this was the pivotal point of the Blue Mountains, and that it could be made the rest house of the tired business man of Sydney."⁸

Purchasing the Carrington in October 1911, Joynton – Smith immediately set about bringing the hotel into the 20th century.

In 1912, the original lace iron work façade was transformed into an art nouveau stained glass facade.

In 1913, Joynton constructed a power station (with its enormous chimney) at the rear of the hotel. This power station supplied electricity to the Carrington, as well as to railway stations, businesses and homes between Mount Victoria and Woodford.

Joynton also noticed that '...when I first went to Katoomba, there was only one bank in the town' ... and ... "realizing there was an opening for another..."⁹ he persuaded the City Bank of Sydney to open a branch in Katoomba in the Carrington grounds.

Mr Housie lived upstairs and became its first manager.

Knowing Katoomba was a tourist town, Joynton became involved in the hire car business and picture show business.

A fleet of 'Italia' cars garaged at the Carrington took visitors to the Jenolan Caves; while both his Empire and Kings picture theatres entertained visitors and locals.

Mr Otto Camphin was made chief executive of both the Empire and Kings theatres, and he was rewarded with ... "half the enterprise." For, added Joynton... "When I have taken on another into a venture and he has brought success, I have made it a rule to share and share alike."¹⁰

By 1926, the Carrington stood on Joynton's books at £120,000, and in the same year, he sold the Imperial at Mount Victoria for £16,000, in order to build the Log Cabin at Penrith.

Driving to the Mountains one day, Joynton stopped off at a Penrith Hotel, and asked for a cup of tea.

The ensuing fuss, and serving of a lukewarm shandy in its place, convinced Joynton... "That in the near future, I would have tea at Penrith, so I looked for a site, and bought a suitable area of land overlooking a lovely stretch of the Nepean River.

Parties of motorists now make it [the Log Cabin] the objective of a run from Sydney, and motor parties to and from the mountains find there a pleasant break in the journey, and I get my cup of tea without any fuss whatever."¹¹

Joynton – Smith passed away in 1943, but during his time at the Carrington Hotel he hosted thousands of visitors. Honeymoon couples mingled with families, war veterans, bachelors, and overseas travellers.

Famous people came as well. The Duke and Duchess of York visited in 1927, Prime Minister Stanley Melbourne Bruce discussed matters of importance in 1924, Billy Hughes relaxed at the hotel in 1929, and Amy Johnson ('Johnny') briefly touched down in June 1930.

In my travels, I've been lucky enough to meet two people who not only worked at the Carrington in Joynton's time, but also met him, recalls Paul Innes.

In 2003, an elderly fellow called Les Timmings told me that sometime during the 1930's both he and his father, Samuel Timmings – who worked at the hotel as the gardener between 1914 and 1947 – received £10 from Joynton. "

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The Carrington Hotel pictured 2011

'You're smoking!'

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"Apparently Joynton won some money on a horse the previous weekend, and gave every member of staff a 5 shillings tip.

That was a lot of money back then!"

¹² Les said.

Then, in 2008, a fellow called Jim Mitchell, who was a pastry chef at the hotel said, "Yes, I met Joynton once.

"He didn't come into the kitchen often, but on this particular day he came in as I was walking out the door into the corridor, about to go on my break.

"I'd already lit my cigarette.

"He saw that and told me I wasn't allowed to smoke in the kitchen. I replied: 'You're smoking!' (He had a

cigar). He replied. 'Yes, but I own the hotel!'"¹³

Touché Joynton.... and thank you for coming to the Blue Mountains.

Footnotes.

1. My Life Story. Joynton Smith. Cornstalk Publishing. 1927. Page 1
2. Ibid. Page 2.
3. Ibid Page 31.
4. Ibid Page 68.
5. Ibid Page 41.
- 6 Ibid Page 99.
- 7 Ibid Page 165.
- 8 Ibid Page 216 – 217.
- 9 Ibid Page 223
- 10 Ibid Page 226.
- 11 Ibid Page 223.
- 12 Interview with Les Timmings, 2003.
13. Interview with Jim Mitchell, 2008.

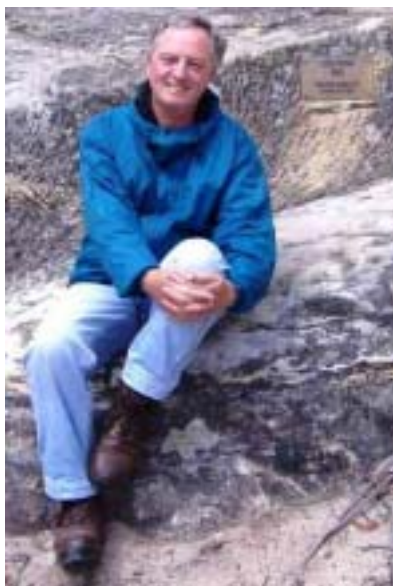
About the author

Paul Innes pictured and Helen Stamper regularly conduct guided historical walking tours around the Carrington Hotel; Katoomba; Mount Victoria; Mount York as well as several other sites in the Blue Mountains.

All tours are thoroughly researched, professionally presented and never rushed.

To book a tour or for further details, please visit their web site.
www.discoverthebluemountains.com.au

Jan Koperberg's photograph of Paul was taken at Mt Victoria on remnants of the Cox's Road.



Springwood historic walk

SPRINGWOOD HISTORICAL Society, in association with Blue Mountains City Council and the Rotary Club of Springwood have identified, by numbered bronze plaques, seventeen historic sites in Springwood and produced a brochure containing a map and concise information about each place.

Arrangements may be made with the secretary Dick Morony by e-mail to:
richardmorony@optusnet.com.au to take interested groups on a guided tour of these places.

Dick will also supply copies of the brochure to people who would like to undertake the walk on their own.

MURDER SITE ON GLENBROOK WALKS ITINERARY

GLENBROOK & District Historical Society regularly organises 'walk and talk' activities visiting interesting places of local history.

The March 31 activity is titled 'The Mountain Murders and a visit to Lee Weller's grave site'.

In 1896 the sleepy village of Glenbrook was like most country towns in the Great Depression when the unemployed suffered real starvation in the absence of government assistance.

Then in 1896, the sleepy backwater's name exploded into world headlines.

The anonymous but many named criminal known as Butler chose Glenbrook for the last of his murders, that of the retired sea captain, Lee Weller.

It appears he lured the sea captain with an offer to show him precious stones which he promised Weller he could find as a prospector

Already "Butler" was suspected of murders in West Australia, NSW and may be in Brazil and after the police were attracted to as they say "to certain happenings" at Glenbrook the second last victim a university student named Arthur Preston, was dug up at Faulconbridge.

Getting wind that the police were on his tail, he decided to flee to America, in a windjammer, but police had taken a steamship arriving in San Francisco to wait and arrest Butler.

Butler was brought back to Sydney where he was tried and hanged.

Those interested in participating in the walk should contact Doug Knowles at 4751 3275 or Tim Miers 4739 2384.

Source: Glenbrook and District --- A History.

Everglades horticulturist receives top award

EVERGLADES HEAD GARDENER, Guy McIlrath has received the National Trust Distinguished Service Award.

Guy who has been head gardener for 7 years received the award based on commitment, leadership, innovation and support for quality of work life.

Everglades manager, Scott Pollock said Guy's eye for detail ensures the property runs with the greatest of ease.

"During the recent upgrades at Everglades, there were 20 different projects which he closely monitored to ensure the end result was the best that could be achieved

"This included suggestions relating to the processes, placement of infrastructure, and keeping things aligned with the conservation plan.

"Guy has huge respect from all workers and volunteers because of his leadership skills.



"Guy is a master at ensuring all staff and volunteers have a productive, educational and enjoyable time while at Everglades," said Mr Pollock.

Pictured is Guy McIlrath (wearing hat) being congratulated by Scott Pollock.

Local architect managed rare 'yellowblock' recovery for heritage sandstone restoration

THE NSW GOVERNMENT provides funding for the conservation of the state's significant sandstone buildings and structures.

Funding is allocated to NSW Public Works, and the work is undertaken by a team of stonemasons, heritage roofers, plumbers and painters from its Alexandria workshops.

The work is guided by heritage architects from the Government Architect's Office who specialise in stone conservation.

Most of Sydney's major sandstone buildings, such as the State Library, Art Gallery, Sydney Hospital and the Australian Museum have already had major conservation work carried out.

Regional projects including Hartley Courthouse have recently received program funding.

A key component for the success of this work occurred in 2000 when the rare "yellowblock" sandstone was obtained in a 'once in a century' opportunity.



Ron Powell

The program's manager for the past decade, Ron Powell, negotiated and oversaw giant saws cutting the precious "yellowblock" out of excavations for multi-level car parks at Pyrmont, on the site of the former famous Saunders yellowblock quarries.

Ron Powell retired from the program and moved to Leura in 2009 and was recently appointed to the Blue Mountains City Council Heritage Advisory Committee.

In 2009 Ron received an award from the Institution of Engineers Australia's Heritage Group for his work in having the Saunders's quarrying operations and their contribution to Sydney recognised.

He was the catalyst for a book "Paradise, Purgatory Hell Hole, The Story of the Saunders Quarries" being written and published as well as the placement of an Institution of Engineers Australia Historic Engineering Marker plaque being placed on the former quarry wall at Pyrmont.

Ron has undertaken at **HERITAGE's** request to provide more information about the program's projects in coming issues.

Lights stay on at historic homes

by *Will Holmes à Court* - former CEO, National Trust of Australia (NSW)

A few Sunday's ago over breakfast many of us read the news about grounded planes and airport chaos, while others, recipients of an early edition, had their comfort of tea and toast hijacked by the headline "Lights go out at historic homes"

It was distressing news with the report referring to National Trust properties. An opinion had been expressed that the Trust was going to have to "mothball" some of its properties and six were mentioned.

The headline generated significant angst particularly from the named communities, those that rely on their rich heritage to reinforce their identity, their strong sense of history and the economic well being of their towns.

So to the question, "Is all news good news"? It is probably too early to call it, but as I write I can reflect that, while it was better than feared, it was worse than hoped.

To another audience it was more like the curate's egg, good in parts. If nothing else it has started a conversation, a conversation that needs to be had if the community is to continue to enjoy its origins and preserve its rich heritage.

A conversation that needs to be had with every generation and every new government particularly at this time as the important gives way to the urgent and the quiet voice of reason is ditched for a jingle.

The story spawned other TV, Radio and newspaper conversations, much of which confirmed again to me, and many, how much the National Trust and its good work is treasured and valued in the community.

It has also prompted many of our members and supporters to ask if the National Trust really does have plans to close properties to which I can answer that the board has no current plans to close any properties and we are working to find ways to make each sustainable in the long term.

On the general question of the Trust's overall financial state it is worth reflecting that the Trust movement is struggling worldwide with most organisations stretched to breaking point.

The exception is the UK which is unique in its size with millions of international visitors each year, more than four million members, large rental income streams and the support of a Heritage Lottery.

Consistently only those Trusts with some government funding are able to deliver the support the community expects.

The NSW Trust, like many "not - for - profits", has been losing money from operations for many years.

Our goal, as always, is to be "not - for - loss" but with the continuing fallout from the global financial crisis, the uncertainty in federal government and the crisis in the economy from the European debt market a new approach with new answers are required.

There's no magic solution. With new revenue streams being slow, the Trust has implemented aggressive cost cutting measures but the conclusion must be that these measures, failing additional support, are unlikely to deliver long term sustainability.

This leaves the Trust movement to face the harsh reality that if current expense and revenue trends prevail, some properties will have to close, no matter how distressing we find it.

So what can be done? The community must express its concern about the future of our



Will Holmes à Court

state's historic properties and have a voice that will highlight to the government the Trust's very real and urgent plight.

The National Trust has approached the government for assistance to continue this necessary work for the community, and recently, in a response to the Minister for Heritage's request, has provided a proposal for a sustainable Trust, a response to which we sincerely hope means "**Lights stay on at historic homes**".

Will Holmes à Court leaves Trust

Since, making this above statement Will Holmes à Court has resigned from the National Trust of Australia (NSW)

He left the Trust on November 27, 2010 saying, "I am leaving the Trust to make room for a smaller and hopefully more sustainable organisation."

In the short time he was at the Trust he introduced new financial and staffing structures and made considerable in-roads to politicians at ministerial and other levels who are responsible for government funding to heritage programs.

From the editors mail box.....

Govett's reputation debunked

To the Editor

I was pleased to see the myth of the bushranger Govett exposed in **HERITAGE** - Issue 18. It has of course been exposed many times before, but to the annoyance of many it seems to stick.

Perhaps we need to recognise the myth as an interesting aspect of history in its own right.

Incidentally, those wanting a fuller analysis of the myth might read Peter Rickwood's chapter on the subject in *Blackheath: today from yesterday*.

My purpose in writing is to expose William Govett himself. As reported in the **HERITAGE** article, Surveyor General Mitchell wrote that Govett was "perhaps the ablest delineator of ground in the department" and "remarkably clever" at dealing with unexplored country.

In fact, Govett was so clever that in 1833 he engaged in what Alan Andrews has described as a "mass of inexcusable fakery" in mapping the ridges and streams draining the Newnes Plateau and Bell Range.

Faced with country too rugged for his pack animals, and confused about the course of the Colo River, Govett fraudulently drew a non-existent drainage system on his map.

Although his surveyor colleague Frederick D'Arcy, who surveyed the Colo and most of its tributaries, tried to point out Govett's "errors" to Major Mitchell, Mitchell preferred to believe his clever and able delineator.

He chose to adopt most of Govett's "mapping" on his famous 1834 map of the colony.

Govett's fraud was not discovered for a whole century, when the army undertook mapping with the aid of aerial photographs.

Govett did however contribute positively through his writing and drawing—aspects which I have drawn out to some extent in my recent book on D'Arcy. Sincerely
Andy Macqueen

References:

Andrews, Alan E.J. (1992) *Major Mitchell's Map 1834: The Saga of the Survey of the Nineteen Counties*. Blubber Head Press. 1992.

Macqueen, Andy (2007) *Frederick Robert D'Arcy: colonial surveyor, explorer and artist*. The author. 2007.

Rotary Club of Blackheath (2005) *Blackheath: today from yesterday*. Writelight. 2005.

Dr Peter Rickwood, an individual member of BMACHO, the editor of BMACHO's *Blue Mountains History Journal* and editor and contributing author to *Blackheath: today from yesterday*, also drew attention to the existence of many more myths.

In his very well researched and referenced contribution to the Rotary Club of Blackheath's book, Peter suggests there are at least 11 myths.

He confirms that the article published in the last edition of **HERITAGE** is substantially correct as to the origin of the naming of Govett's Leap although "...no written statement by TL Mitchell [concerning Govett's claims] have been discovered."



Govett's Leap Fall, Blackheath 1905. Photograph Blue Mountains Local History Library Collection

In his chapter, 'Legends', Peter writes "... there are more fanciful stories about the naming of this waterfall, many of which were included in a speech given in 1899 at the luncheon to mark the opening of the track to the base of the fall."

From Peter's extensive research it seems, "...Govett's nephew, John Govett Smith, and others, went to a lot of trouble trying to dispel these 'legends' but the stories persist still, possibly to enhance the intrigue of the area and bring financial gain to the community."

Dr Rickwood goes on to state: "The installation was mooted of a board in an unspecified 'prominent position' telling the truth about Govett's discovery, but it never eventuated."

"Instead, in 1974 the Blackheath Rhododendron Festival Committee commissioned Sydney sculptor, Arthur Murch to create a statue of horse and rider which was erected in Neate Park, and purports to commemorate one of these fables"

Editors note: In the interest of factual history **HERITAGE** does not wish to perpetrate these fables by further promoting these myths by recording them in this newsletter.

References:

Rotary Club of Blackheath (2005) *Blackheath: today from yesterday*. Writelight. 2005.

BMCC HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETS

The recently formed heritage advisory committee of Blue Mountains City Council, met last month to introduce members and discuss the body's role.

It is anticipated that much of its work in 2012 will be involved with the heritage review of Local Environment Plan 1991.

The committee membership includes 10 community members with considerable experience in a wide diversity of heritage.

Sculpture exhibition at Scenic World

by Lizzie Marshall

The Hammon family board's vision for creating a recurring sculpture exhibition was seen as a challenge on its own, but to create this event on the environmentally sensitive floor of rain a forest brought a whole new dimension to sculpture exhibitions. Scenic World's sculpture exhibition manager, Lizzie Marshall discusses in this article, some of these challenges



AS THE SCULPTURE exhibition manager, the central joy of my job has been the realisation of the Hammon family board's vision for a recurring sculpture show. This simple premise has turned out to be more involved than envisioned. The reality was to create an exhibition with the rainforest as a unique gallery that would enhance visitor experiences and provide a world class venue to showcase the art without competing with this unique setting.

My central aim, "of the highest artistic integrity" has had to be married with the considerations of the unique venue. This meant aligning artistic integrity with the environmental constraints of the fragile environment. This too has brought its own joys with resourcing the best advice in the individual fields of environmental and ecological concerns, heritage and cultural values, arboreal advice and a world class installation manager.

So where did my journey start. Firstly, the wonderful Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations was key to my understanding that the environmental concerns were only one factor which would need to be considered when siting sculptures along Scenic World's rainforest boardwalk.

The rich cultural heritage of the area needed to be preserved, protected as well as complemented by the exhibition. Notable exclusions to sculpture sites extended to existing heritage items that are largely remnants from the past mining operations.

Blue Mountains City Council's development planning team were invaluable and eternally encouraging throughout the whole DA process. Their specialised interest in protecting the natural environment highlighted that one of the biggest considerations would be compaction of the soil on the delicate rainforest floor.

One of the wonders of this exhibition is how we are transporting the art into the valley. The Scenic Cableway is going to be occupied within the hours of 7am and 9am of the installation period for this purpose. The minimisation of footprint (soil compaction) replaced the previous constrictions of the Cableway's doors and carrying capacity. Previously the Cableway had defined the size and weight of individual sculptures (1.2 tonne being the heaviest it could carry in one go).

This drew new guidelines for our independent judges, Monica McMahon, UWS curator and Leonard Janiszewski, Macquarie University Sculpture Park curator, to choose works from the overwhelming response we had to our open call for submissions, that were "of the highest artistic integrity and took into account the consideration of the environmental footprint". This proved to be an interesting journey for our judges and we feel that as a result the most excellent of all outdoor exhibitions is headed to Scenic World from February 16 to March 11, 2012.

Amazingly of the twenty six artworks selected for exhibition eleven are

going to be suspended from trees. Two new considerations arose from this: firstly, the consideration of damage to the trees and vines. Arboriculture Australia proved invaluable with their advice on best practice for suspending sculptures from the trees. Second consideration was to the suspension of the artworks is to the installation team which would be handling the delicate and valuable works. It is with great pride that *Sculpture at Scenic World* has contracted one of Australia's leading installation managers, Richard Harrison to instal our show. You may be familiar with his unsung work on the Biennale of Sydney's Cockatoo Island installations and most recently he worked with Australia's leading sculptor Ken Unsworth on his recent show at Cockatoo Island.

Sculpture at Scenic World opens to the public on Thursday February 16, 2012. There is a fully engaged program covering the entire three weeks providing plenty of opportunities to hear insightful lectures, meet the artists and experience free guided tours. The exhibition closes Sunday, March 11, 2012, with the final day featuring an artists' discussion panel at 3pm with *Sculpture at Scenic World* artists Nigel Harrison, Michael Mandelc and Bronwyn Berman who all work with metal in different ways to create their unique art. The event is free and will be chaired by Paul Brinkman, director, Blue Mountains Cultural Centre.

For further information please visit: www.scenicworld.com.au/sculpture

The impulse to sculpt

By Michael Mandelc --- Sculptor

One of my earliest experiences of sculpture was under the guiding hand of my grandfather who had me welding at age 10 years.

I can clearly recall the impulse to sculpt as the most natural and important thing to do, gladly the same urge remains with me to this day.

The opportunity to immerse myself in the workshop environment at that time opened up a vast world of possibilities. I was imprinted with the sensation of what it meant to put form up in space.

In as much as form follows facility so too one's environment as an artist can be considered the very seed bed for the origin of ideas.

Personally I feel one of the artist's primary commissions is the absolute need to develop their observation skills as if they were to serve as a sixth sense.

Hardly any means by which to continue securing this sense is excelled by the practice of drawing. In my mind drawing is fundamental and those that find it unnecessary may have forgotten to put the garlic in the soup.

In our time it has become increasingly challenging to actually define sculpture as it further occupies the junction between a temporal event and static form. From this time/space nexus tension is derived creating enormous expressive potential.

I do feel however that it is very important when venturing to extend and innovate upon the conversation that it be clearly rooted in context to both art practice and history.

It is important to differentiate between the nature of pure spectacle and the language of form, the difference between something that has been styled to appear like sculpture and work of greater depth that irrefutably commands its space.

I feel strongly about a studio practice that applies the use of studies as sculptural notions are developed.

This is something I inherited from my teachers whom I also assisted namely Stephen Walker OA and Alan Ingham. Both of these sculptors acted as assistants to Henry Moore.

Via this tradition it became increasingly apparent that when seeking to establish a framework within which to execute ideas one of the most potent and enduring principles is found in the discussion of materiality. Here is where one finds the natural sculptural integrity that great work is so charged with.

In my own case I explore a robust yet delicate flexibility in my work and in keeping with this the lost wax process has formed a practical mainstay.

With wax as the intermediary material it constitutes a highly versatile medium that not only affords me a reliable shorthand with which to quickly model but also allows the form to be 'read' as bronze while working on it.

The inherent characteristics of these materials accurately answer my approach to modelling and provide an intuitive vehicle by which to bring latent energies to the surface of my sculpture whilst also exploring negative space.

The Rod of Aaron

The sculptor, Michael Mandelc said his objective with this work, is to evoke a harmonic sentinel which signals perpetual rejuvenation.

"To do so, I have sought to break nature open, laying it vulnerable and then go on to clothe it in its environment.



Pictured above is the artist's marquette of The Rod of Aaron which when placed in the exhibition stands about 2 metres high with the upper element being cast in bronze using the 'lost wax method (cire perdue) and then gilded in 24 ct gold leaf.

"For all those who wander the green cathedral, a tuning fork. 'Rod of Aaron' engenders pause and place whilst spiritually charging it's surrounds, as it suggests, with unseen aspects abundant in the wild divine."

Visit the sculptor's website at www.michaelmandelc.com

Sculpture at Scenic World - Katoomba opens to the public Thursday February 16, and runs to March 11, 2012.

www.scenicworld.com.au/sculpture

Journals of early coastal explorers --- download sources

by Peter C Rickwood

Whilst it may not be common for residents of the Blue Mountains to have the need to browse the journals (or diaries) of the 18th and 17th Century coastal explorers, when they do so then printed copies are usually only available in distant libraries.

But to some extent this problem has been eased due to the release of many full text versions on various websites.

However some of these sites can be difficult to locate so provided here are the URLs for many that I have hunted down whilst researching in recent months.

Unfortunately, not many first editions have been digitised and the printed copies are of such high value that few regional libraries have been able to afford them; hence often they can only be consulted in the Mitchell Library.

Facsimile copies are usually authentic versions of the originals but with an added preface or introduction giving background information about the author or subject matter. They are reliable.



The sketch of natives cowering in a shelter watched over by soldiers is of significance because it was drawn by Captain John Hunter who came in 1788.

Transcriptions are usually reasonably accurate but at times editors have been known to change spellings, mostly to correct the work of semi-literate writers; e.g. in one case 'staid' was corrected to 'stayed'.

One such editor admitted to having amended inconsistent punctuation and to have broken up over-long paragraphs, etc.

Such cavalier action can result in the author's meaning being altered so if a nuance is important then it is wise to consult the first edition of the journal or diary.

Secondary sources can be helpful but caution is needed as authors tend to paraphrase the original words of an explorer.

Be particularly careful not to rely on Wikipedia!

18th Century

Cook 1770

transcription <http://freeread.com.au/ebooks/e00043.html>

transcription <http://southseas.nla.gov.au/journals/cook/17700429.html>
<http://southseas.nla.gov.au/journals/cook/contents.html>

Cook 1770

<http://www.archive.org/details/threevoyagesofca02cook>
pp.67-228

Banks 1770

transcription <http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks05/0501141h.html>
transcription <http://southseas.nla.gov.au/journals/banks/contents.html>
http://adc.library.usyd.edu.au/view?docId=ozlit/xml-main/textsp00021.xml;chunk.id=d1393e_152;toc.depth=100;toc.id=d1393e147;database=:collection=:brand=default

Parkinson 1770

<http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.31822002235067;page=root;view=image;size=100;seq=1>

transcription <http://southseas.nla.gov.au/journals/parkinson/contents.html>

Furneaux 1773

<http://www.archive.org/details/threevoyagesofca03cook>
pp.121-128

Cook 1777

[http://books.google.com.au/books?id=d6wAAAAYAAJ&pg=PR38&lpg=PR38&dq=james+cook+voyage+resolution&source=bl&ots=fGnrEO7L-f&sig=eao2O5TT9dt55Qq8cqYJzIIFL8&hl=en&ei=g_Vi0TsSYPOL_tmAWH3JS_Aw&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&sqi=2&redir_esc=y_v=onepage&q="](http://books.google.com.au/books?id=d6wAAAAYAAJ&pg=PR38&lpg=PR38&dq=james+cook+voyage+resolution&source=bl&ots=fGnrEO7L-f&sig=eao2O5TT9dt55Qq8cqYJzIIFL8&hl=en&ei=g_Vi0TsSYPOL_tmAWH3JS_Aw&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&sqi=2&redir_esc=y_v=onepage&q=) Book I pp.1-421 (see p.93+)

Cook 1777

<http://www.archive.org/details/threevoyagesofca05cook>
pp.172-197

Phillip 1788

transcription <http://purl.library.usyd.edu.au/setis/id/phivoya>
transcription <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/15100>
<http://freeread.com.au/ebooks/e00063.html>

Journals of early coastal explorers --- download sources

Continued from page 13

Bligh 1788

transcription <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/15411>

transcription <http://freeread.com.au/ebooks/e00041.html>

Bradley 1788

facsimile & transcription <http://purl.library.usyd.edu.au/setis/id/brajour>

Hunter 1788

transcription <http://setis.library.usyd.edu.au/ozlit/pdf/hunhist.pdf>

King 1788

transcription <http://purl.library.usyd.edu.au/setis/id/kinjour>

Tench 1788

transcription <http://purl.library.usyd.edu.au/setis/id/p00039>

transcription <http://freeread.com.au/ebooks/e00083.txt>

transcription <http://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/t/tench/watkin/botany/complete.html>

White 1788

transcription <http://purl.library.usyd.edu.au/setis/id/p00092>

transcription <http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks03/0301531h.html>

Worgan 1788

transcription <http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks04/0400181.txt>

transcription <http://purl.library.usyd.edu.au/setis/id/worjour>

Tench 1793

transcription <http://www.archive.org/details/acompleteaccount03534gut>

transcription <http://purl.library.usyd.edu.au/setis/id/p00044> *endnote numbers are not identifiable in the unpaginated text*

transcription <http://freeread.com.au/ebooks/e00084.txt>

Malaspina and team stayed at Sydney Cove in March-April 1793, and he is reported to have written about the area. p.141+ in King, R.J. (1990) *The secret history of the convict colony : Alexandro Malaspina's report on the British settlement of New South Wales*. [translated by Robert J. King]. Sydney : Allen & Unwin, 1990. 179 pp. [Mitchell Library REF 1/994.402/28]

Bass 1797-1798

"Mr Bass's Journal in the Whale Boat between the 3rd of December 1797 and the 25th of February, 1798" [M.L. Ref. C211 now CY 1270, Frames 6-24] transcription pp. 312-333 in Bladen, F.M. (ed) (1895) *Historical Records of NSW, Volume III*, Hunter. 1796-1799. Sydney: Charles Potter, Government Printer. 856pp. <http://www.archive.org/stream/historicalreco02walegoog#page/n10/mode/2up>

Flinders 1799a

"A Journal in the Norfolk sloop ..." [M.L. Ref. C211 now CY 1270, Frames 26-47]

<http://acms.sl.nsw.gov.au/album/albumView.aspx?acmsID=395200&itemID=823213>

Flinders 1799b

"Narrative of the expedition of the Colonial sloop Norfolk from Port Jackson through the strait which separates Van Diemen's Land from New Holland; ..." [Mitchell Library C211 now CY 1270, Frames 49-97] <http://acms.sl.nsw.gov.au/item/itemdetailpaged.aspx?itemid=153831>

Flinders published 1801-1803

Volume 1 <http://freeread.com.au/ebooks/e00049.html>

transcription Volume 1 1814

<http://www.archive.org/stream/avoyagetoterraau12929gut/12929.txt>

transcription Volume 2 1814

<http://www.archive.org/stream/avoyagetoterraau13121gut/13121.txt>

Observations on the coasts of Van Diemen's Land on Bass's Strait and its islands 1801

<http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks09/0900121.txt>



The sketch of Sydney Parkinson by Newton, James, 1748-ca. 1804. is seldom seen for he was one of the 'lesser lights' of the 1770 expeditioners; this is NOT the tinted version in the National Library and viewable on <http://www.pictureaustralia.org> .

Continued page 15

Journals of early coastal explorers --- download sources

Continued from page 14

Collins published 1802

Book 1 Second Edition 1804

<http://books.google.com.au/books?id=Yx0QAAAAAJ&pg=PR1&dq=%22an+account+of+the+engli sh+colony %22+%22second+edition%22&hl=en &ei=W9LVTsePEM 3nmAXRy6Rr&sa=X&oi=book result &ct=result&resnum =1&sqi=2&ved=0CDIQ6AEwAA#v= o nepage&q=%22an %20account%20of%20the%20 english% 20colony % 22 % 20%22second%20edition %22&f=false>

transcription Book 1

<http://www.archive.org/details/anaccountof theen 12565gut>

transcription "An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales, Volume 2"

<http://www.archive.org/details/anaccountof theen 12668gut>

17th Century

De Torres 1606

translation <http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks06/0600361h.html>

Carstens 1623

translation Heeres <http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks05/0501231h.html>

Tasman 1642

translation <http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks06/0600571h.html>

transcription <http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks04/0400771h.html>

secondary <http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks06/0600551h.html>

de Vlamingh 1696-1697

P.E. Playford, *Voyage of Discovery to Terra Australis* (Perth, 1998)

Dampier 1699

transcription <http://freeread.com.au/ebooks/e00046.html>

SECONDARY SOURCES

Early Voyages to Terra Australis, now called Australia.

Author: R H Major <http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks06/0600361h.html>

translation De Torres 1606

secondary report of Pelsart 1629

extracts relating to

Hartog 1616

De Edel 1619

Carstens 1623

Nuyts 1627

the Vianen. 1628

de Vlamingh 1697

and others

Flinders

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/12929/12929-h/12929-h.htm>



This 1796 view of Brickfields Hill or High Road to Parramatta displays the transport of the time and again is not commonly seen (creator unknown).

Prior Discoveries in Terra Australis

North Coast:

De Torres 1606

Zeachen 1618

Carstens 1623

Pool 1636

Tasman 1644

and others

West Coast:

Hartog 1606

Edel 1619

the Leeuwin 1622

the Vianen. 1628

Pelsert 1629

de Vlamingh 1696-1697

Dampier 1699

and others

South Coast

Nuyts 1627

and others

Tasmania

Tasman 1642

Marion 1772

Furneaux 1773

Cook 1777

and others

The Dutch In The Discovery Of Australia 1606-1765 – Heeres, J.E.

<http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks05/0501231h.html>

Great Southern Land: The maritime exploration of Terra Australis – Pearson, M.

<http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/publications/about/great-southern-land.html> p.20+ - most explorers

Wirraway crashes in Blue Mountains

by Peter Chinn, Springwood Historical Society

At about 10.00am on Thursday, August 1, 1940 a Wirraway aircraft of 22 Squadron, piloted by Pilot Officer Harry Hopwood with observer Sergeant Vincent Monterola, took off from the RAAF base at Richmond for a training flight over the Blue Mountains in company with another Wirraway.

The Wirraway was a single-engined, two-seater aircraft built in large numbers prior to and during World War II by the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation at Lidcome.

It was based on the North American Harvard trainer. Although originally a trainer the aircraft was also used by the Royal Australian Air Force as a dive-bomber and fighter.

It was, however, no match for the Japanese Zero fighters over Darwin or in Papua New Guinea. The Wirraway was generally armed with two .303 calibre Vickers machine guns and capable of carrying four 250 pound bombs.

No records are available to tell us what the weather was like at Richmond on that morning, however the central Blue Mountains were shrouded in heavy mist which was not unusual for that time of year.

Around 10.30am witnesses reported seeing an aircraft emerge below the mist above Hazelbrook railway station (elevation 2,200 feet), passing over the roofs of houses and narrowly missing a telegraph pole.

A few minutes later residents in Railway Parade, overlooking the gorge of Bedford Creek to the south, heard a crash then saw flames and black smoke shoot into the air some kilometres to the south.

The Wirraway had crashed into a hill on the southern side of Bedford Creek in an area only accessible in those days by scrub-bashing through precipitous and thickly-timbered terrain.

Mrs. Campbell, a Hazelbrook resident, contacted Constable Paine of Lawson Police who informed RAAF Richmond of the crash.

Her daughter, Miss Mary Campbell was a cubmistress at Hazelbrook who had often taken cubs and scouts for hikes in the region and led a police party to the site.

Two brothers, Harley and Irving James arrived at the crash site first. They told reporters that they had heard the two planes pass over Hazelbrook and to be just above the low clouds.

They had found the remains of the aircraft still burning with the body of the pilot in the cockpit. The body of the observer was about twenty metres away near the top of the ridge.

The James brothers said that the aircraft had torn through trees for about 400 metres, tearing off branches as if they had been lopped.

Portions of the aircraft and a flying helmet were hanging from some of the broken trees, and fuel had set these items and the trees alight. The fire around the aircraft was fierce and a large area of bush was burnt.

Harley and Irving stated that some parts of the Wirraway were not burnt and were strewn over a wide area. They thought that the aircraft had impacted at about 200 miles per hour.

Pilot Officer Hopwood (26) was married and a resident of Mosman.

He had joined the Citizen Air Force at Richmond in 1934 and was called-up for full-time service with the RAAF in May 1940.

Sergeant Monterola (23), married, from Wentworthville, had enlisted in the RAAF in 1936.



Much of the fuselage and a wing remain, partly hidden in thick undergrowth

The crash was thoroughly investigated by the RAAF and a report submitted to the Secretary of the Department of Air.

The investigators came to the conclusion that the cause of the crash was that "The aircraft had flown into cloud and probably spun out".

I have visited the crash site a number of times with fellow-bushwalkers – reasonably accessible now due to the construction of a multitude of fire trails over the past thirty years or so but in 1940 it must have been a solid slog via Bedford Creek gorge.

While the crash site is only 3.5 km as the crow flies from Hazelbrook station the easiest access today is from Wentworth Falls via Kings Tableland Road, Queen Elizabeth Drive onto the Williams Ridge Fire Trail for about four kilometres before striking north another four kilometres on an unnamed fire trail

You have to look out for a crude cairn on the left of the fire trail (which is easily missed), then with the aid of a compass make a short ascent up and over the small ridge for about 100 metres to locate parts of the Wirraway just below the crest, still there after 71 years.

Continued page 17

WIRRAWAY CRASH



A Wirraway

Continued from page 16

Much of the fuselage and a wing remain, partly hidden in thick undergrowth beneath the tall trees – a last reminder to the occasional visitor of this tragedy in the wilderness.

Unlike the site of the RAAF Avro Anson crash at Glenbrook on January 28, 1940, which claimed five lives, there is no plaque to record the accident. However, someone has placed the remains of one of the Wirraway's instruments in the cairn by the track to secure its identification with the crash.

While there is no tangible memorial to the deceased air crew authorities some years ago designated the area "Aeroplane Hills".

Sources:

- RAAF Historical Records, Department of Defence, Canberra
- Local Studies records, Springwood Library

Woodford Academy open day

The National Trust property Woodford Academy will have an open day on Saturday, January 21 between 10am and 4pm.

Enjoy the special atmosphere of the property which includes a fine example of colonial kitchen and a rare segmented arch of the fireplace. Home made morning teas are served on the balcony with Blue Mountains vistas.

Admission \$6 adults, \$4 concession, \$3 child. Enquiries Marilyn Wright 4758 7809

War stories --- do you have a war hero in your family?

The reason we say war hero is that all men and women, who served in any war are heroes in our eyes.'

The Lithgow & District Family History Society Inc. is embarking on a new project which will focus, to begin with, on World War 1 and then continue on to World War 2.

If anyone has a story to tell of a loved one who served in World War 1 the project organisers would like to hear from them.

The object is to compile the war history and stories of these gallant men and women who willingly gave their services to fight for their country.

The society feels that these histories should be recorded for future generations.

Once they are gathered and compiled they will hold a very special place on the society's library shelves for all researchers and family historians to appreciate.

The society also envisages having the stories published in the *Lithgow Mercury* and in the Society's quarterly journal.

Even if individuals only know of their involvement in the war but don't know what their history is and would like to find out more, then the society can help people achieve that goal.

Anyone having photographs of a loved one can also be added, which makes the records so much more complete and interesting.

The amount of information which can often be found in the war records is very rewarding, such as place of enlistment, where they served and any battles they in which they fought.

In cases where the person died in battle or from illness, it is usually recorded along with letters sent to family and occasionally photographs are also to be found.

The society holds a large collection of the *Lithgow Mercury* dating right

back and in these newspapers there were many mentions of servicemen and women. Simple things like a letter sent home to a loved one,



or a soldier being wounded or killed in action, and quite often someone being admitted to hospital with an illness.

The society also has a collection of a few English war newspapers which make very interesting reading.

For more information please contact Lithgow Family History Society members Cecily McCarten on 0408 676 638 or Helen Taylor on 63 557231.

They would like to hear from individuals and of course if anyone is thinking of becoming a member of the society they would be made most welcome.

Post script: The soldier pictured above is George Joseph Mara from Portland near Lithgow the great uncle of Helen Taylor.

The photograph was taken in France, during World War 1.

He was wounded in action twice and survived, went to hospital twice with trench feet and once with mumps and then died of pneumonia 16 days after the Armistice was signed.

Helen has a letter he sent home to Helen's grandmother only two weeks before the war ended.

He is buried at Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery.

"Such a sad story but one that is dear to my heart," says Mrs Taylor.

**Contributed by Helen Taylor,
Lithgow Family History Society**

Researcher finds three brothers who served their country as soldiers

HERITAGE published in its last edition a piece about The Bob Howard Award for 2010 which had been won by Vicki Wilson, for her article "Private Joseph Harold Nevill, Service No. 269". The award is made each year by the Blue Mountains Family History Society for the best researched article from The Explorers' Tree magazine. This article giving an insight into just how Vicki went about her research is now republished.

by Vicki Wilson

**Private Henry James Nevill
Born 1894 Balmain, NSW
Died 1916 Fromelles, France**

Since 2009 when the remains of the allied soldiers were discovered near the Belgian border at Pheasant Wood, Fromelles, France, I have listened and read with interest the articles about these men and the construction of the cemetery dedicated to them.

It was with amazement that I discovered that my family was part of this story.

In October 2009 I attended the family history fair at Lemon Tree Passage Bowling Club which is hosted by the Port Stephens Family History Society.

As usual I travelled with my three friends Sharon, Judy and Lorraine and we stayed in a townhouse for a weekend of non-stop fun (oops, that should read catching up on our family history).

Late one night Judy and I were chatting and the subject of what family lines we had not done much on, came up and fortunately, though a little embarrassed, I admitted that I had not touched my fathers' maternal line.

I could not remember why, it could have had something to do with researching in Queensland or the Sydney Smith, Elizabeth Jones marriage; a union that I didn't want to touch in the early days of my research.

I left Lemon Tree Passage having undertaken to concentrate on my Moore and Nevill lines.

When I arrived home I didn't unpack, I put my bags down and sat in front of the computer... this is what happened!

Working backwards from what I knew I entered my grandmother's name "Dulcie Jessie Moore" into Google and only one hit appeared¹, a posting on RootChat.com, a family history mailing list. My grandmother was part of the family tree included in the posting entitled 'Fromelles missing – Nevill (NSW and Qld)'.

The posting read:
'We are looking for living relatives of the following soldier. There is also a need to combine the family tree to do DNA testing if it proves viable. There is loads of info about him, so we hope to be able to trace the family. Grateful for any help.... Ruskie'

According to this family tree my grandmother was the niece of Joseph Harold Nevill, service number: 269, a private in the 31st Battalion AIF, aged 22 when killed in action on July 19, 1916, his place of burial unknown.

Within three minutes of me responding to this post I had a reply from Sandra, who along with Tim Lycett, are the administrators of the 'Fromelles Descendants Database'².

They and other posters on the RootsChat.com mailing list have not only been most helpful in aiding my

research of Joseph but also my Nevill line.

My next port of call was a link on the 'Fromelles Descendants Database' to the Fromelles page on the Australian Department of Defence website³ where I registered as a relative of Joseph Harold Nevill, I also discovered that there were other relatives registered so I gave my permission for my details to be passed on to them.

I then accessed the National Archives of Australia site to view his 41 page digitised military file⁴, the Australian War Memorial site to view his Roll of Honour Circular⁵ and his 12 page Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau file 1914 -18 War 1DL/0428 which is also located on the Australian War Memorial site⁶.

From these websites I learned that Joseph Harold Nevill (1894 - 1916) was born in Balmain, NSW, the son of Henry James Nevill and Ada Smith (the daughter of the previously mentioned Sydney Smith and Elizabeth Jones).

He had attended the State School, Indooroopilly, Queensland and was apprenticed to Mr Bonney of Brisbane as a leather bag maker in July 1915 when he enlisted.

Continued page 19



THREE BROTHERS WHO SERVED THEIR COUNTRY. From left Private JH Nevill (killed in action) Private BH Nevill and Corporal SG Nevill. This photograph appeared in The Queenslander Newspaper on July 27, 1925

Continued from page 18

I learned that two of Joseph's brothers had also enlisted: Stanley Cecil Nevill in August 1915 in the 5th Light Horse and Bertram Henry Nevill in April 1917 in the 30/2 Light Horse, both returned after their tours of duty.

Joseph departed Australia and arrived at Suez on the December 7, 1915 aboard the *HMT Wandilla*.

The next recorded event in his file is a 48 hour punishment at the Ferry Port on May 6, 1916 for conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline.

He then boarded the *HMT Hororata* at Alexandria on June 16, 1916 for an eight day voyage to Marseilles and is then recorded as missing in action in the field on the July 21, 1916 in the neighbourhood of Fromelles.

**'Victory
Medal
sold for
\$80'**

Dear Sir,
I regret to have to inform you that I have received the following cable from London:-'269 Pte J. H. Nevill 31st Btn. name appears German death list



JH Nevill



Fromelles Cemetery

We are advised that these lists are really made from the discs gathered by the Germans from the dead bodies in the trenches and that no date or place of burial is mentioned the soldiers did not live to be prisoners and that the bodies were buried by the Germans.
Yours Faithfully,
George Scott Hon. Sec'.⁷

The identity discs referred to in the letter were returned by the Germans to the War Office on February 24, 1917 but it wasn't until June 1919 and after many pleading letters that Joseph's family learned his fate:

Dear Madam,
We have received the following statement from our agents in London
'On the evening of the 19th July 1916, I was standing close to the above man and saw him killed by concussion from a shell. His death being instantaneous there being no wounds.
'This happened in No-Man's Land and it was impossible to remove him for burial as he was close to a German outpost.
I.W. Fuich,
Yallock, Via Kooweerup Victoria'⁸

Sadly, I found Joseph's Victory Medal had been sold at auction for \$80 in September 2008⁹.

Within three days of registering with the Australian Department of Defence I had a call from Chloe Wootten, communications manager, Australian Fromelles Project Group (ASFPG), who is the liaison person for the Fromelles Project.

Chloe first needed to establish that I was a relative of Joseph and, once confirmed, proceeded to tell me the Nevill family history that she had collected as part of the project. I still have a lot more research to do to fill in the gaps.

Joseph's father Henry James Nevill (November 28, 1858 - June 21 1943) was born in Burton on Trent, London to Benjamin Nevill and Isabella Mayger.

Henry was married three times. His first marriage was to Margaret Peters in London in 1878¹⁰, they had two sons: Henry Richard in 1879 and Albert Edward in 1880¹¹.

On January 28, 1884 Henry married Ada Annie Smith at Bethel House; George Street North, Sydney. Mabel Isabel (my great grandmother), the first of their nine children was also born in 1884¹². Joseph Harold born 1894 was their seventh child. Ada died of pneumonia on March 8 1898¹³, thirteen days after the birth of her ninth child Roy. Joseph was three at the time.

Henry next married Gertrude Elizabeth Sexton in Queensland in 1899 and there were eleven children from this marriage.

It is understood that Henry and Ada's nine children remained in Sydney and travelled to Queensland after his marriage to Gertrude who raised them as her own but more research needs to be done on this.

A descendant of one of Henry James Nevill's first family in England has donated his DNA to the Department of Defence in the hope that Joseph's remains may be identified therefore enabling him to be buried with a named headstone in the new military cemetery in Fromelles.

Fortunately, more DNA samples have become available if the first sample is inconclusive; one from a cousin of Joseph's and also my father, George Maxwell Horne, a great nephew of Joseph.

Continued page 20

DNA identified soldier killed in 1916

Continued from page 19

The Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery was dedicated on the 94th anniversary of the battle on July 19, 2010.

Less than five months ago I knew nothing about this line of my family and from a few words in a conversation this wonderful discovery emerged. I have found family members in South Australia, Queensland and England through the internet with whom I now correspond and more amazingly, I am going to be in Fromelles to be part of this wonderful event!

For more information about the battle and the cemetery have a look at these sites:

http://www.army.gov.au/fromelles/Fromelles_Home.asp
<http://www.fromelles.net/>
http://www.awm.gov.au/units/event_159.asp
http://www.defence.gov.au/ARMY/fromelles_The_Battle_1916.asp

(Endnotes)

¹ http://www.rootschat.com/forum/index.php?PHPSESSID=2jrkrfnd19nagi21u_lv26d57p5&action=printpage;topic=381028.0, accessed 18th October 2009

² <http://www.fromelles.net/>, accessed 18th October 2009

³ http://www.army.gov.au/fromelles/Fromelles_Home.asp, accessed 18th October 2009

⁴ <http://naa12.naa.gov.au/Scripts/Imagine.asp?B=7996015&l=1>, accessed 18th October 2009

⁵ http://www.awm.gov.au/cms_images/AWM131/036/036878.pdf, accessed 18th October 2009

⁶ http://www.awm.gov.au/cms_images/1DRL428/00026/1DRL428-00026-1990802.pdf, accessed 18th October 2009

⁷ Letter dated 10th February 1917 from the Australian Red Cross Society, Queensland Division to Mr H Nevill Esq, father of Joseph Harold Nevill

⁸ Letter dated 24th Jun 1919 from the Australian Red Cross Information Bureau, Brisbane to Mrs H Nevill, stepmother of Joseph Harold Nevill

⁹ Sold by CJ Medals, September 2008. This auction has been removed from their website, www.cjmedals.com

¹⁰ Year: 1878; Qtr: D; Vol: 01c; Page: 910, GRO Reference

¹¹ 1881 England Census, Class: RG11; Piece: 459; Folio: 26; Page: 1; GSU roll: 1341100, Ancestry.com, accessed 9th December, 2009

¹² NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages, 1884/3947

¹³ NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages 1898/622"

EDITOR'S NOTE

Subsequent to the research in this article the author Vicki Wilson was advised by the Defence Department that it had a positive match with the DNA collected from a relative and the remains of Joseph Harold Nevill.

This meant that Private Henry James Nevill would be buried with a named headstone.

Vicki continued to research the family line through the usual sources.

Through the Defence Department's Fromelles Project she was put in contact with Maureen McLaren who lives in South Australia and who is related to Joseph through his father Henry's first marriage to Margaret Peters. Maureen and her cousin David Neville [Nevill with an 'e'] had registered with the Fromelles



Headstone of Pte JH Nevill buried in the Fromelles Military Cemetery.

Project some time ago and David had donated his DNA in the hope of being able to positively identify Joseph's remains.

Viki Wilson had already planned to be in Europe in August 2010, so did not hesitate to alter her itinerary to include the dedication of the new military cemetery in Fromelles which was held on July 19, the 94th anniversary of the battle.

Joseph Harold Nevill is located at 2F in the cemetery where a ceremony was held in the presence of HRH the Prince of Wales, the Duchess of Cornwall and the Governor-General of Australia.

BLUE MOUNTAINS HISTORY CONFERENCE 2012

To be held at the historic Carington Hotel, Katoomba on, Saturday, October 20
Conference title: Colonial Society

Official opening by Associate Professor R Ian Jack
 Keynote speaker: Dr Shirley Fitzgerald - The early years of the colony
 Segment 1 The effect in the Indigenous population with the establishment of a European colony
 Segment 2 Colonial dress (Glynis Jones, Powerhouse Museum)
 Segment 3 Nature and role of gardens in the early settlement period (Silas Clifford-Smith, Archivist, Heritage Centre, UNE).

For further information and early bookings (capacity limited to 120 participants) to Jan Koperberg at

j.koperberg@bigpond.com or bmacho.heritage@gmail.com

BMACHO committee meets at Scenic World

THE 10 MEMBERS OF BMACHO's management committee meet every month to discuss and decide on various activities in which the organisation is engaged.

Without a permanent home, various organisational members host the committee either in their own premises or in rooms they have hired or 'borrowed' for the day.

The December 2011 committee meeting was held in the board room of Scenic World which is an inaugural member of BMACHO.

The Hammon family owners of Scenic World with their normal generous hospitality not only provided the meeting facility and morning tea, but also arranged for committee members to have a

guided tour of the complex which includes the Scenic Railway, the Scenic Walkway across the rain forest floor with relics of the mining village which once was home to early miners and the Scenic Cableway across the valley.

Photographs courtesy Peter Stanbury, OAM.



BMACHO president, Pamela Smith with guest speaker Will Holmes at Court at the December committee meeting



Wild Woods



On the board walk in the rain forest at the bottom of the Scenic Railway. From left to right, Dave (Scenic World guide), Doug Knowles, Jan Koperberg (partially hidden), Dick Morony, John Leary, Ian Jack and Suzanna Edwards



Bush tools hanging on the wall of a miners hut in the rain forest

Patsy Moppett becomes an individual member

A TOWN PLANNER and heritage officer in local government for some 18 years, Patsy Moppett is the latest person to be welcomed to BMACHO as an individual member.

Patsy has worked at Camden, Bathurst, Evans, Lithgow and Cabonne councils.

In local government her work included management of the heritage programs for a number of these councils.

The programs included the heritage advisory service, heritage committee and the local heritage fund of those councils.

Currently she works for a private consulting company in Kelso near Bathurst undertaking planning, heritage and environmental research and reporting.

She has a Bachelor of Town Planning Degree and a Diploma in Conservation and Land Management, and completed other courses related to heritage, planning law, property planning, the environment and permaculture.

Patsy is involved with a number of community organisations including National Trust of Australia (NSW), Cox's Road Project Committee, Evans Arts Council, Dry Stone walls Association of Australia, various central west family history groups and historical societies, and Convict Trail Project on the Great North Road.

She also undertakes history and heritage research and report writing, having written the book, "A History of Cow Flat".

Patsy is currently working on a history of the Lower Turon goldfields, and various family history projects including one which records her father's travels across



Patsy Moppett

Australia, the world and his trip to the Antarctic.

Patsy has four grown children and one grandchild, and lives at Yetholme between Bathurst and Lithgow. She undertakes bushland regeneration projects on her land at Yetholme in consultation with and through funding from the Central West Catchment Management Authority.

Claim of wrong plaque for heritage grave

On Saturday, November 5, 2011, I was speaking to a man from Lower Portland whom I had casually met at the Hawkesbury River near the location of the Aborigines' Reserve.

He knew of the popular word for the people there as Dharug (which he pronounced 'Darug') when referring to them.

Obviously, I corrected him by mentioning new findings from my research of original source records which confirmed the people from there as Darkinjung.

His response was unexpected: Why would it matter - they're just Aborigines.

He may have meant they were, but I was able to point out that they are, and some of the descendants of these Darkinjung people are living round about where we were talking.

Yet, it was not until I told him that it was the same as saying Switzerland was part of Italy that he showed any comprehension.

He acknowledged the point by responding with the common

example of Irish and English being separate. [In my 2010 thesis, I use Poland and Spain as an example, commentary fn.29 p.262.]

That evening, I was talking with a Windsor tour operator known locally as a 'self-appointed historian' of the Hawkesbury, who had on Sunday September 18, 2011 placed a plaque in the state heritage C of E cemetery without bothering with the authorities from whom permission was required.

He has brushed off such oversights with his suggestion that others should have contacted him.

I raised the issue that the previously unmarked grave had had a false inscription placed there, labelling the Aboriginal occupant Andy Barber as 'Darug'. Andrew, his father and his family, were all identified in their lifetime as Darkinjung.

Although one of Andy's sisters' granddaughters was at the graveside, she was completely disregarded in favour of politically active people with no relationship to the family - but who claim ancestry

from the Georges River Dharug at Liverpool.

She had told me she did not want to make a fuss at the church, and the operator again told me it was up to her to have contacted him beforehand - although he had been told about the Darkinjung in February.

The 'punch-line' from my discussion that evening was that the operator said it doesn't matter, they are only Aborigines.

He pointed out what a good thing he'd done by commemorating them with his plaque, so it didn't matter whether he was correct or not. [In my 2010 thesis, I note this attitude that it does not matter several times, with eg commentary fn.24 p.260.] **I disagree - it does matter.**

Contributed by Dr GE (Geoff) Ford who recently published a thesis titled *Darkinjung Recognition for a Master of Arts (Research) Degree at the University of Sydney*

Life membership for two Lithgow stalwarts

THE LITHGOW & District Family History Society Inc. (LDFHS) recently had the pleasure of recognising one of its members with a very well deserved life membership.

Jan Saundercock joined the LDFHS as one of its founding members in 1986.

Over the years in her time with the society Jan has held the following positions: president, secretary, treasurer, librarian, minutes secretary, newsletter editor, indexing convenor, publishing officer, public officer and librarian which is no mean feat.

Jan has worked tirelessly in each and every role she has undertaken and has always given 100%.

Like many other committee members, Jan has had some very trying personal times in recent years through which she still had the society's interest at heart.

Jan has organised numerous seminars and just recently she ran a very informative day on how to use the library which was just fantastic.

It was with much pleasure that the committee members congratulated Jan and asked her to accept her badge and certificate of life membership of the Lithgow & District Family History Society Inc.

Also to receive life membership was Kathy Brennan who joined the society in 1989 just three years after its inception and went straight into the position of library convenor.

Kathy has retained this position ever since without a break. Kathy is very well deserved of this life membership as she always puts 100% into everything she does, and it's not only handling the job of librarian but she has many other roles as well.

Kathy has been there for all functions including the Festival of the Valley floats for every year the society had a float she participated in them.



Left to right LDFHS president, Eleanor Martin with life members Kathy Brennan and Jan Saundercock

The many cake stalls, bingo nights, garage sales just to name a few fundraising ventures which have benefitted from her involvement. It was very fitting to see Kathy receive

her life membership at the 25th anniversary luncheon in front of a large crowd of members and friends and her husband Brian who has always been very supportive as well.

Shakespeare at Everglades

THE HIGHLY successful Leura Shakespeare Festival returns to Everglades for its third season in January 2012.

The festival will feature two brand new plays, William Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and *The Taming of the Shrew*.

The outdoor theatre festival, a partnership between The National Trust and Sport for Jove Theatre, is based at the stunning Everglades Gardens, Leura and tours to the historic Norman Lindsay Gallery, Faulconbridge.

Featuring a superb ensemble cast and directed by acclaimed director Damien Ryan, this wonderful summer experience is not to be missed. Matinees 2pm, evening performances 7pm.

2012 Season dates:

Saturday and Sunday January 7 and 8 at Everglades Gardens; Friday – Sunday January 13 - 15 at Everglades Gardens and; Friday– Sunday January 20 -22 at Everglades Gardens, and then Friday Saturday January 27 and 28 at Norman Lindsay Gallery. **Cost:** \$32 adults / \$26

concession (with card) / free for children 8 years and under. Combined show tickets available but only in advance. **For more information:** call (02) 9439 5683 **Bookings Essential**



The golden Pyrmont sandstone arch which forms the dramatic backdrop to the stage in the Garden Theatre at Everglades was originally the recessed entrance to the London Chartered Bank of Australia on Sydney's George Street.

Western crossing commemoration 2013-15

great ideas - thoughts - just being talked about or its really going to happen

Lithgow City Council creates 2013-15 commemoration committee

LITHGOW CITY COUNCIL has established Section 355 Committee to oversee activities and in Lithgow LGA to commemorate the Bicentenary of the Crossing of the Blue Mountains by Europeans in 2013.

Mayor Neville Castle said, "This event is a highly significant one in the history of our nation.

"Events are being held from Penrith through to Bathurst and as the concluding point for Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson's expedition, Lithgow plays an important role in these commemorations."



Lithgow Mayor, Cr Neville Castle

Mayor Castle told the inaugural meeting of the committee that there was an over arching committee under the auspices of the Royal Australian Historical Society.

The principle responsibilities of the Lithgow committee are:

- To monitor activities commemorating the Bicentenary of the Crossing of the Blue Mountains in 1813 and the completion of Cox's Road in 1815.
- To provide advice to community organisations which are planning their own events
- To ensure that perspectives of Aboriginal traditional

owners are acknowledged in commemorations

- To assist Lithgow Council with other councils and other relevant organisations
- To assist council to lobby other governments for funding and other forms of support.

Lithgow Council will consider allocating in the 2012/2013 management plan funding of \$20,000 comprising \$10,000 in cash and \$10,000 in-kind support towards the events.

The committee terms of reference specify membership of the following organisations: two councillors, three representatives from the Hartley District Progress Association and one representative from the following groups, Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations (BMACHO), National Trust, Cox's Road Project Committee, Royal Australian Historical Society, Lithgow District Family History Society, Mingaan, Wiradjuri Council of Elders, Gundungurra Tribal Council, Hartley Vale and Mt Blaxland Reserve Trust.

Joan Kent will represent BMACHO on the committee.

Commemorative stamps and coins

Australia Post and the Australian Mint will issue two commemorative stamps and a coin for the bicentenary.

Blue Mountains City Council was making public domain pictures available to the Mint and Australia Post.

Maps to be digitised

State Records of New South Wales will digitise relevant maps of the crossing.

Ian Jack has advised he has identified 24 maps from 1814 – 1815 of the various crossings.

These maps will be available on the Spatial Information Exchange (SIX).

Landmarks Gallery links

The National Museum of Australia is developing plans to link its new Landmarks Gallery with the bicentenary commemorations

George Main, a curator at the Museum has advised that the Blue Mountains is one of the landmarks and the Museum will be looking at the consequences of the crossing, with stories and artefacts, including the Jackie Lewis breastplate.

State Library travelling exhibition

The State Library of New South Wales is considering a travelling exhibition/display.

Prof. David Carment has advised when he met with Mitchell Librarian, Richard Neville, recently he (Neville Richard) was keen to have the State Library participate in the bicentenary commemorations.

Heritage grant application

The RAHS's Council has given approval for David Carment to submit an application for funding of an events website, under the Your Community Heritage grants program

1813 Pioneer Way signs

NSW Roads and Marine Services are trying to resurrect the old 1813 Pioneer Way signs.

Schools involvement

Penrith City Council has indicated it intended to invite all local schools to be involved in events in that area.

The next meeting of the Western Crossing Committee will be held at the Hobby's Reach Research Centre 99-101 Blaxland Road, Wentworth Falls at 2pm, Friday February 17, 2012.

100 years ago this month.....

Scott's fatal journey to the Pole

AN ANTARCTIC march which had commenced on November 1 the previous year culminated a century ago this month when Robert Falcon Scott and his four companions reaching the South Pole on January 17, 1912 only to find that the Norwegian Roald Amundsen had preceded him by five weeks.

Scott's anguish is indicated in his diary: "The worst has happened. All the day dreams must go. Great God! This is an awful place." ¹

The disappointed party began the 1300 km return journey from the Pole on January 19 and made good progress despite poor weather, completing the Polar Plateau stage of the trip some 300km by February 7.

On February 17, Edgar Evans died near the foot of Beardmore Glacier.² after an earlier fall

On March 16 Lawrence Oates, barely able to walk voluntarily left the tent and walked to his death., his last words being recorded in Scott's diary: "I am just going outside and may be gone some time".³

The three remaining men, Scott, Edward Wilson, and Henry Bowers made their final camp on March 19, in a fierce blizzard. On March 23 Scott made his last diary entry, and it is presumed he died that day.

The world was informed of the tragedy when the expedition's ship *Terra Nova* reached New Zealand on February 10, 1913. Within days Scott became a national icon.

Scott had returned from his early expedition to the Antarctic in 1904 to become a popular hero, a status he held for more than 50 years after his death. He was awarded a



Scott's group took this photograph of themselves using a string to operate the camera shutter on the day they reached the South Pole

cluster of honours and medals and promoted to the rank of captain.

Scott's reputation survived the period after World War 2, beyond the 50th anniversary of his death. In 1966 Reginald Pound, the first biographer given access to Scott's original sledging journal, revealed personal failings which cast a new light on Scott.

1. Huxley, *Scott's LST Expedition* Vol. 1, pp.543-44.
2. Huxley, *Scott's LST Expedition* Vol. 1, pp.572-73.
3. Huxley, *Scott's LST Expedition* Vol. 1, p 592.

BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

REGISTERED OFFICE 14 Bunnal Ave, Winmalee 2777
E-mail: j.koperberg@bigpond.com or
bmacho.heritage@gmail.com
Website: www.bluemountains.heritage.com
ABN 53 994 839 952

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, Cudgong Museums Group Inc., Eskbank Rail Heritage Centre, Everglades Historic House & Gardens, Friends of Norman Lindsay Gallery, Glenbrook & District Historical Society Inc., Hartley Valley District Progress Association, Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society Inc, Lilianfels Blue Mountains Resort, Lithgow and District Family History Society Inc., Lithgow Mining Museum Inc., Lithgow Regional Library – Local Studies, Lithgow Small Arms Factory Museum Inc, Mid-Mountains Historical Society Inc, 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, 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, Woodford Academy Management Committee, 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, Patsy Moppett, Professor Barrie Reynolds, Dr Peter Rickwood 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 McMahon-Nolf, Barrie Reynolds and Peter Stanbury.

HONORARY AUDITOR: Sue McMahon, B Comm CPA.

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