

HERITAGE

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

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2013

ISSUE No. 30

An alternative crossing: Bells Line of Road

Part 1: Alexander Bell junior

by Ian Jack

Introduction

THROUGHOUT 2013 there has been a bicentennial preoccupation with the genesis of the Great Western Highway over the Blue Mountains.

The development of a viable road along the high ridges south of the Grose River to the plains beyond had powerful consequences which were gradually realised over the decades following 1813.

The recent and continuing commemorations of Blaxland, Lawson, Wentworth, Evans, Cox and Macquarie have contributed to a welcome appraisal of the events of 1813 to 1815.

It is worthwhile, however, to recall that another ridgeway to the north of the Grose gorge had also been explored by Europeans and was surveyed as a viable road in 1823.

Bells Line of Road was a real enough alternative to the Western Road, although, for a variety of reasons, it has always played second fiddle to the southern route.

But when Archibald Bell and Robert Hoddle created the alternative road in 1823, the descent from Mount York was still a challenge for the traveller on the Western Road and Thomas Mitchell had not yet arrived in the colony to make autocratic determinations about the best lines for all three main roads, north, south and west.

Mount Tomah proved to be Bell's Mount York, but in 1823 the northern route promised much.

Whereas the southern route ran from the lower Nepean at Emu Plains, the new route started on the



Ian Jack in this image of the Grose River gorge from Bells Line captures the immensity of the dividing line between the two roads the Bells Line of Road to the north and to the south the Great Western Highway as the routes are known today.

upper Hawkesbury adjacent to North Richmond, climbed the escarpment through Kurrabung to Kurrabung Heights with deviations over the years, then descended onto a singularly equable ridgeline until the great obstacle of Mount Tomah presented generations of road-users and road-makers with dangers and dilemmas.

Once over Mount Tomah, the road followed the only practicable ridgeline until it turned south at the Darling Causeway, where the Grose River had its source.

Halfway down the Darling Causeway it turned west again down a viable creek gully into Hartley Vale (the route still in use today as Hartley Vale Road).

Once safely down in Hartley Vale, it passed the inn that Pierce Colletts had established in 1821 and joined the Western Road (*Figure 1*).

Aboriginal and early European knowledge

The Kurrabung hills had been familiar to Europeans since the earliest days of the colony. Captain Watkin Tench, Lieutenant William Dawes and Sergeant Isaac Knight were the first Europeans known to have climbed the Kurrabung foothills.

They had no Aboriginal people with them. 'Stopped by a mountainous country', they ended their foray on top of Kurrabung Heights (or just possibly Bowen Mountain) which Tench and Dawes named Knight Hill in May 1791 in honour of the sergeant of marines.¹

Continued page 3 (For figure 1 see page 3)

Contents.....

HERITAGE

November - December
2013

- *P1 Alternate crossing: Bells Line of Road by Ian Jack
- *P2 Opinion - Bushfires' ferocity touched the region's heritage by John Leary
- *P6 A breathtaking floral display of purple haze by John Leary
- *P9 Woodford Academy launches bicentenary schools program
- *P9 Bicentenary tribute to Evans and Cox
- *P10 The Gully, officially opened
- *P10 British campaign ends gallery's bid to buy historic animal art
- *P11 The making of a possum skin cloak by Jan Koperberg
- *P11 All about Evans
- *P12 Historic sharing culture -- Aboriginal commemoration walk Jummangunda Ngunninga by Jan Koperberg
- *P13 Retrospection and continuity - the Cox's road journey by Joan Kent
- *P14 Historian with song writing to his credit becomes president at Kurrajong
- *P15 Persistence wins museum a grant
- *P16 Move to form Friends of the Paragon
- *P16 New strategy for Australian heritage
- *P17 Sandstone the making of the Blue Mountains
- *P18 'Our Jan' honoured for work on Western Crossings
- *P18 National Trust honours awards 2013
- *P19 Blue Mountains new plan goes on exhibition
- *P19 NSW govt withdraws controversial planning bill
- *P20 *Blue Mountains History Journal* No. 4 now online
- *P22 St Stephens Parish Registers 1861 - 1902
- *P23 ANZAC centenary grants
- *P23 New heritage network
- *P24 Utzon's Opera House
- *P24 Landmarks
- *P25 Rome's gigantic waste disposal site



An opinion from the editor..... Bushfires' ferocity touched the region's heritage

The devastating bushfires which ripped through parts of the Blue Mountains and Lithgow areas destroying more than 200 urban homes is in itself a piece of history which students of cultural heritage in the future will ponder particularly as to the effect on the community at large.

The destructive force of the fires and the heroic efforts of those volunteers and professionals who fought the fires often at danger to themselves, has been well recorded in the media and it is not the intention to comment other than to add to the overwhelming chorus of appreciation which has rightly been showered upon these men and women.

Closer to home, a number of those associated with BMACHO were under real threat and to them go our sincere hopes that like Phoenix they will rise from the ashes. Particularly our sympathy goes out to former president of Mt Victoria & District Historical Society, Robert Cameron who was one of those to lose his home to the flames.

With fire within two kilometers of the Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Museum wise precautions were taken to move off site and away from the district some valuable paintings housed in the complex. Members also took appropriate action, rolling out fire fighting hoses to ensure the site was adequately covered should an outbreak of fire occur.

A little further west at Faulconbridge, up to 10 fire trucks surrounded the historic National Trust property of Norman Lindsay Gallery where priceless art works were carefully packed up and moved off the Mountains. The decision to move the treasures despite on-site fireproof storeroom was made because of the ferocity of the fires and the weather conditions.

Not so lucky was the Zig Zag Railway where members had been working tirelessly for some time to satisfy the Rail Safety Regulator and had genuine hopes of resuming passenger services towards the end of this year. The fire brought devastation mainly to the Bottom Points depot complex where the destruction of the workshop facility and office occurred. However, the society still has enough rolling stock to resume passenger operations in the future while the three stations buildings were not touched by the fire.

Clearly, it is a time for all museums and heritage properties to look to bush fire survival plans, because inevitable bushfire is one of the prices we pay for living and working in such a beautiful environment.

CONGRATULATIONS

All too often the outstanding and dedicated work of our volunteers and those professionals with whom they work, is overlooked. In the pages of this edition of *HERITAGE* is recorded the awards to a number of these people.

Firstly those individuals and organisations who have worked tirelessly for the success of the bicentenary celebration of the Western Crossings have been honoured by the Blue Mountains, Oberon and Lithgow Tourism. Secondly we have the National Trust awards where 5 out of the total of 20 awards this year have come to the Blue Mountains.

BMACHO warmly congratulates those who have been recognised with an award and thanks both organisations for realising the worth of the volunteers and the professionals who work alongside them in the heritage sector
**John Leary, OAM -
President, Blue Mountains
Association of Cultural Heritage
Organisations Inc.**

Macquarie rode up to Kurrajong Heights

Continued from page 1

With the development of farming in the Hawkesbury Valley from 1794 onwards and the granting of land on both sides of the river, there was a natural likelihood of further early exploration.

The only written account to survive from these first years is by Matthew Everingham, a First-Fleet convict, who set out from his Hawkesbury farm in 1795 with two other Europeans 'to cross the blue mountains of this country', climbed up to Kurrajong Heights as Tench had done, though his exact route is uncertain, and then went beyond as far as the eminences of Mount Wilson/Irvine or Mount Tomah.²

In 1804 the naturalist George Caley travelled from Kurrajong Heights to Mount Tomah and Mount Banks by a very difficult route, still remembered by names such as the Devil's Wilderness and Dismal Dingle (Figure 2).³

Because of their proximity to the Hawkesbury River, the Kurrajong hills and the North Richmond area were settled and developed quite early, including the Bell family's Belmont in 1807.

James Meehan surveyed North Richmond in 1809 and Kurrajong in 1811.⁴

Governor and Mrs Macquarie rode up to Kurrajong Heights in December 1810 after visiting the Bell family at Belmont, found no difficulty in ascending the final hill and used an alternative route down to the north-west, already marked out by the same surveyor, George William Evans, who was to survey Cox's Road in 1813-1814.⁵

Although Aboriginal people knew the route along the ridges from Kurrajong Heights to Mount Tomah, this does not seem to have been a common indigenous way across the Mountains.

This is suggested by a story retailed in 1904 by a well-informed Richmond man, Sam Boughton, born locally in 1841.

According to Boughton, an altercation just before 1823 between the local Belmont

Aborigines and a group from Pipers Flat near Wallerawang, who had crossed the Mountains via Springwood, led to the abduction of six Belmont women:

'In about six days one of the gins returned alone, but from a different direction than by the way she was taken off: and when questioned as to how she came back, she pointed to the Big Hill (Kurrajong Heights), saying, "that feller".

'This event caused some surprise, not only to the Bells, but to the blacks also, as it was thought there was no other way over the mountains than by Springwood.⁶

This story does not imply that local Aboriginal people did not know how to cross Kurrajong Heights, but it makes it clear that they did not expect to go to the Bathurst Plains directly from Kurrajong .

The evidence of George Bowen, who lived at Berambing, near Mount Tomah, in the 1830s, is categorical:

'The Aboriginal natives never lived in [that part of] the mountains, but there was a tribe who wandered over the neighbouring lowlands [i.e. the plateau between Kurrajong Heights and Mount Tomah] and occasionally paid me a visit.⁷

The evidence strongly suggests that the Darug people had some knowledge of the area as far as Mount Tomah, but that no regular Aboriginal thoroughfare from the Bathurst Plains to the Cumberland Plains existed immediately to the north of the Grose River.

Archibald Bell junior and his three expeditions in 1823

Archibald Bell junior spent almost his entire early life in the Kurrajong district.

Born in England in 1804, he had arrived in New South Wales with his parents and eight and a half siblings in 1807.

Continued page 4

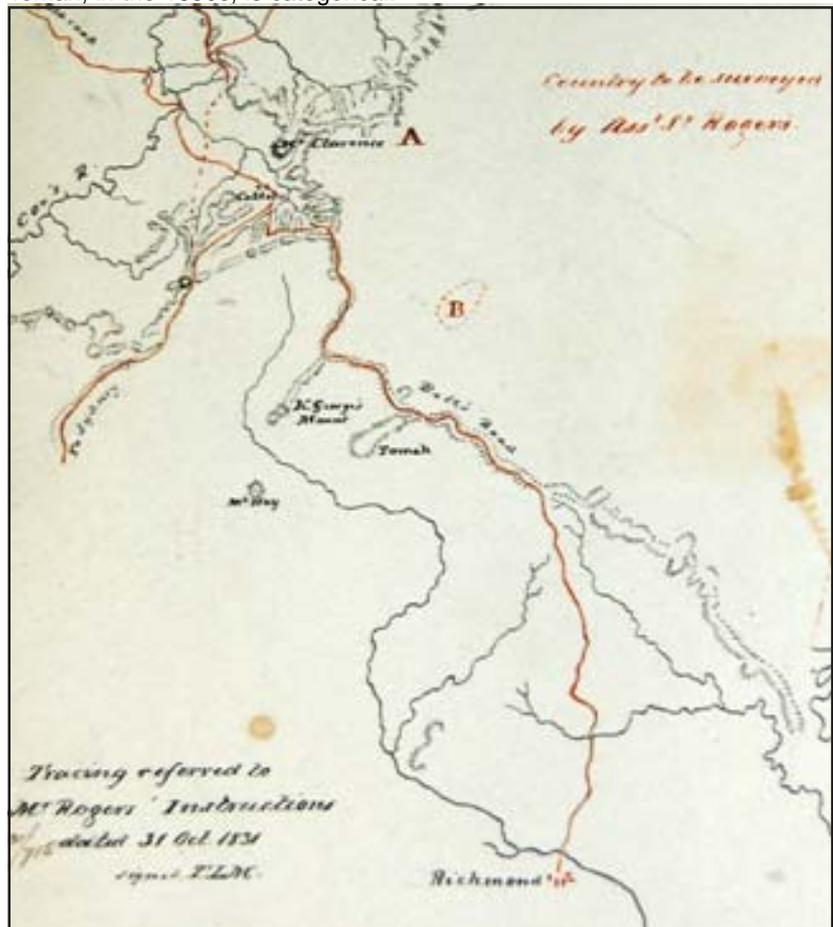


Figure 1. Bells Line of Road as surveyed by Robert Hoddle in 1823, sketch-map used in 1831 by Surveyor Rogers. State Records NSW, Surveyors' Sketch-books, X751, item 206.

Archibald senior a member of the Rum Corps

His father, Archibald Bell senior, a member of the Rum Corps, was given 500 acres [200 hectares] on the north bank of the Hawkesbury at North Richmond by Governor Bligh, built his house of Belmont there, expanded his landholdings during the interregnum and under Paterson and, despite his complicity in the fall of Bligh, was in 1810 confirmed in his acreage by Governor Macquarie.⁸

Lachlan and Elizabeth Macquarie visited the Bell family at Belmont in November 1810 and took tea on the verandah.⁹

Belmont was already a comfortable home in 1810, and Archibald Bell senior and his wife Maria developed the property between 1826 and 1834 into the delightful house drawn by Conrad Martens in 1838 and painted by Henry Fullwood in 1892 (Figure 3).¹⁰

Young Archibald was still living at home in 1823, a lad of nineteen.

Three years before he had been stimulated by his elder brother, William, who enterprisingly followed John Howe's newly blazed route to



The original ZigZag constructed probably in 1823-1824 by convicts under the control of Archibald Bell senior was essential to the success of his son's 1823 road. Image Ian Jack October 2013.

The ZigZag descended the steep cliff leading from the top of Warks Hill Road at Kurrajong Heights down to the Cut Rock, which is now on the realigned line of road. The image is of the last Zag in the descent. The rock cutting is very clear. Further up the ZigZag there is also stone walling to buttress the road on tricky stretches.

the Hunter Valley via Bulga Ridge, but Archibald had been too young to join William on this expedition.¹¹

In 1823, the incident of the Aboriginal woman returning by a northern route to Kurrajong and Belmont from her abduction by a group from Wallerawang, inspired Archibald to mount an expedition of his own.

He mustered his small party at the water-mill on Little Wheeny Creek on August 1, 1823, and left with two settlers, one of them the local blacksmith, William McAlpine.

In the diary which Bell kept while on his expedition and carefully copied out on his return in a notebook which luckily survived in the family library, he makes it clear that he had 'Native Guides' but does not identify them.¹²

Sam Boughton, who knew two of Archibald's sisters, was quite sure that the abducted Aboriginal woman went with Bell, while Alfred Smith, another local identity, claimed in 1910 that on Bell's first or second expedition there were only 'two blackfellows "Cocky" and "Emery"', men who are known in other documentation and were about 27 years old in 1823.¹³

Continued page 5

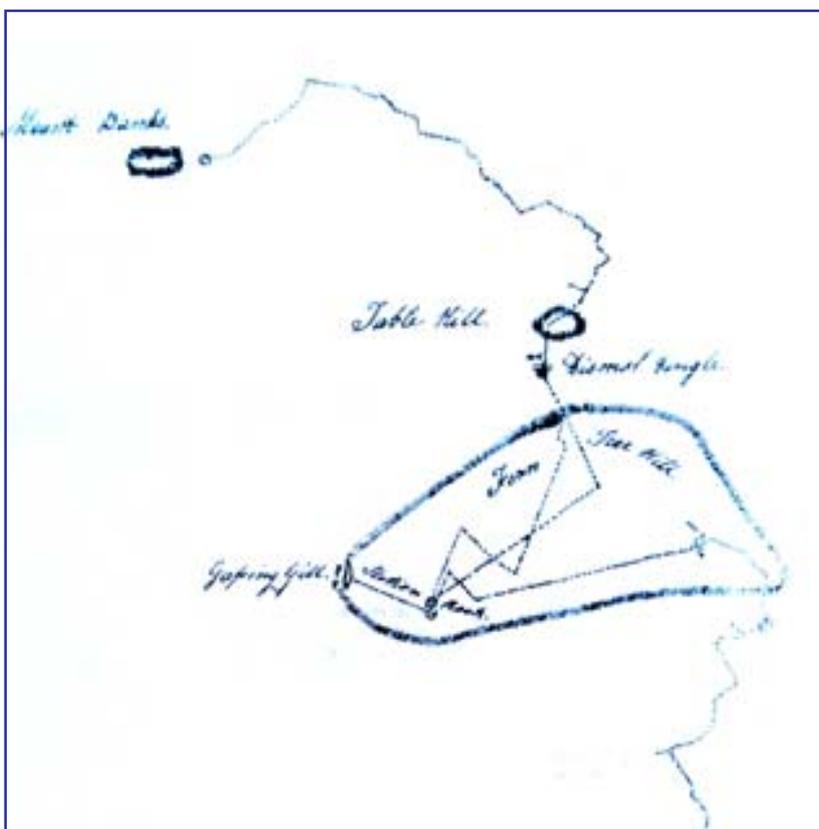


Figure 2. Caley's sketch-map of the area around Mount Tomah and Mount Banks, which he explored in 1804. *Historical Records NSW*, vol.5, after p.724.

Continued from page 4

The first expedition reached Mount Tomah, but the horses were unable to proceed beyond because of the extreme hazards of the western exit from the mountain.

With a larger group Bell returned in September, found a viable route half-way up Mount Tomah and went on farther than Everingham or Caley had done, turned south onto the Darling Causeway and then down to Hartley Vale.¹⁴

When Bell returned to Belmont, he quickly spread the news of his success and gained publicity for the argument that the new line of road was shorter and easier than the Great Western Highway, with better feed for stock.¹⁵

Hoddle was to climb every 'remarkable' mountain

John Oxley, the surveyor-general, was impressed and at once sent his new assistant surveyor, Robert Hoddle, freshly arrived from the Cape of Good Hope, to survey Bell's route.

Hoddle was to describe the country, estimate the amount of cultivable land, climb every 'remarkable' mountain and mark the direction of every creek.¹⁶

On October 6, 1823 Hoddle set out from Kurrajong accompanied by Bell, two Aborigines, five European men and three horses. The field-book which Hoddle maintained throughout the fortnight taken to reach Collett's Inn survives, along with the more polished account that he sent to Oxley on November 4, 1823.

Hoddle compiled a workmanlike map, showing the whole length of around fifty kilometres surveyed.¹⁷

Hoddle shows that the existing road from the Hawkesbury to Kurmond followed a line very close to the modern Bells Line, but this road then went north of what is now Kurrajong village: Hoddle



Figure 3 Henry Fullwood's watercolour of the Bells' Belmont, painted in 1892, just before the house was demolished. Photocopy of sale catalogue, in State Library of NSW, Mitchell Library, Small Picture File, mistakenly filed under 'Newcastle Suburbs, Belmont'. Courtesy of State Library.

suggested on his map a deviation through Kurrajong, the road known today as Old Bells Line of Road through the village.

Kurrajong Heights was named 'Bell's View' on Hoddle's map and along the relatively easy road to Mount Tomah the surveyor marked, as instructed, places where there were 'plenty of water', 'good soil' and 'fine timber'.

After the descent from the Darling Causeway, Hoddle showed two possible end-games once the road levelled out, with a preference for the more easterly route, making a beeline for Collett's Inn.

Otherwise the road as surveyed in October 1823 represents the route established by Bell's second expedition in the previous month.¹⁸

Archibald Bell was an able publicist for his new route. Not only the *Sydney Gazette* in 1823 but also the English *Morning Herald* of June 21, 1824 compared the old and the new roads and believed Bell's propaganda about the new: 'Besides considerably reducing the distance, the road will be comparatively level, and free from nearly all the obstacles which render the bleak and barren one now used so uninviting to the traveller, and ill adapted for the passage of carts and driving of cattle.'¹⁹

But the advent of Thomas Mitchell as surveyor general, the continuing intransigence of Mount Tomah and the building of the railway in the 1860s ensured that Bells Line

remained subsidiary to the Western Road for the rest of the nineteenth century.

(END NOTES)

¹ W. Tench, *Sydney's First Four Years*, ed. L.F. Fitzhardinge, Sydney, 1979, pp.234-235, 324.

² *The Everingham Letterbook*, ed. V. Ross, Sydney, 1985. This contains, in addition to the text of Everingham's letters which describe the expedition, an excellent account of various attempts in the early 1980s to reconstruct the actual route taken.

³ M. Hungerford, *Bilpin the Apple Country: a Local History*, Bilpin, 1995, pp.9-17.

⁴ State Records New South Wales [SRNSW], Surveyor's Field-Book 70, Reel 2622, SZ 891, cover, pp.3-7, 26-29. Meehan's survey notes on Kurrajong, although in his own list of contents, are missing from the volume.

⁵ Lachlan Macquarie, Governor of New South Wales: Journals of his Tours in New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land 1810-1822, Sydney, 1979, pp.24-25.

⁶ 'Cooramill' [S. Boughton], ed. C. McHardy, *Reminiscences of Richmond: from the Forties Down*, Windsor, 2010, p.107.

⁷ Quoted in Hungerford, *Bilpin*, p.35.

⁸ *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, vol.1, pp.78-79; SRNSW, Primary Applications, 10/26656/7816, items 8, 9.

⁹ Macquarie, *Journals*, p.24.

¹⁰ Three dated stones survive from old Belmont, evidence of building works in 1826, 1830 and 1834. The Martens drawings are now in the State Library of NSW, PXC 295 fos.85-88, DL PX 27 fo.72. One of the five Fullwoods is still at Belmont Park, while a colour photocopy of another is in the Small Picture File of the Mitchell Library, mis-filed under 'Newcastle Suburbs, Belmont'.

Continued page 6

A breathtaking floral display of purple haze

by John Leary, OAM

WALKING OR DRIVING through the main thoroughfare of Springwood, Macquarie Street, locals and visitors are at this time of year, struck by the breathtaking floral display of purple haze surrounding the Jacaranda tree (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*) at the Frazer Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Its vivid lilac-blue clusters of trumpet shaped blossoms appear in late spring and early summer, later falling to the earth carpeting the church grounds with a mass of colour and spilling over to the pedestrian footpath along Macquarie Street.

It is said that if you are walking underneath the Jacaranda tree and one of the trumpet blossoms falls on your head you will be favoured by fortune.

Jacarandas are used world wide as a decorative ornamental tree commonly used to line avenues.

Bells Line of Roads

Continued from page 5

¹¹ A. Macqueen, *Somewhat Perilous: the Journeys of Singleton, Parr, Howe, Myles & Blaxland in the Northern Blue Mountains*, Wentworth Falls, 2004, p.117.

¹² R. Else-Mitchell, 'The Discovery of Bell's Line, 1823: a Note and a Document', *Journal of Royal Australian Historical Society [JRAHS]*, 66, 1980-1, pp.92-3. The manuscript notebook is now in the Mitchell Library, ML MSS 1706 Add-on 1071, pp.5.,7.

¹³ 'Cooramill', ed. McHardy, *Reminiscences of Richmond*, p.106 ; A. Smith, *Some Ups and Downs of an Old Richmondite*, Emu Plains, 1991, p.27; Hungerford, *Bilpin*, pp.19-20.

¹⁴Hungerford, *Bilpin*, pp.21-23.

¹⁵ *Sydney Gazette*, 9 October 1823, p.2.

¹⁶ J. Jervis, 'Robert Hoddle, first Surveyor-General of Victoria, and his Early Work in New South Wales', *JRAHS*, 23, 1937, pp.42-45.

¹⁷ SRNSW, Surveyor's Field Book 258, Reel 2626, 2/4894; Surveyor-General's In-Letters, 4/1814 pp.109-114 (partly published in Hungerford, *Bilpin*, p.24); Map SZ 422.

¹⁸ SRNSW, Map SZ 422.

¹⁹ Cutting from *Morning Herald*, 21 June 1824, in Miscellaneous Papers collected by H.F. Garner, Mitchell Library, ML 1493, reel CY 907, p.390b.



The blooming Jacaranda and to its left the branches of the Cedar of Lebanon enhance the picturesque Frazer Memorial Church in Springwood. Photograph by Jan Koperberg, November 2013

Their history and significance has been extensively documented from the famous annual Grafton festival in Australia to Pretoria, the Jacaranda City, (located 50 kms north of Johannesburg) noted for it's 70,000 plus flowering Jacaranda trees.

Jacarandas have richly figured timber that is rarely cut, as its ornamental value is high. The interesting leathery seedpods follow flowering.

But it is not, as is so often said to be, a native of South Africa, but of the mountain deserts of Brazil.

Although considered to be of significance in Blue Mountains City Council's LEP 2005 and listed on the State Heritage Inventory it is another tree which has a much more interesting origin — a few metres east of the Jacaranda in the church grounds.

This tree is older than the 20th century plantings of both the Jacaranda and Illawarra Flame Tree (*Brachychiton acerifolius*). It is a very mature cedar of Lebanon (*Cedrus libanica*) which is marked by a plaque: 'This tree was grown from a seed brought back from Lebanon by Mrs John Frazer in 1890s'.

These giant, beautiful, evergreen trees grow in mountainous regions, at altitudes of 3,300-6,500 feet (1,000-2,000 m).

They can be found in Lebanon, south-central Turkey, and Cyprus. They produce cones which grow on top of the branch.

The trees can attain a height of 100 feet (30 m) and the trunk may reach 6 feet (2 m) in diameter. Compared with the trees of Israel, the cedar is indeed a mighty tree, and it is highly praised in Scripture.

BIBLICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Commonly referred to in scripture as the cedars of Lebanon, this aromatic, durable wood was highly desirable for building in Iron Age Israel.

David used it in building his palace (2 Sam 5:11; 1 Chr 17:1), and Solomon used it in the construction of the temple and a palace for himself (2 Chr 2:3-8). He was said to make the cedar as plentiful in Jerusalem as sycamore-fig trees in the Shephelah (2 Chr 1:15). The second temple was also constructed from cedars (Ezra 3:7).

The NSW Environment & Heritage in the SHI's statement of

Continued page 7

Continued from page 6
significance describes, 'The Frazer Memorial church as a striking example of Victorian philanthropy, financed entirely from the generosity of a prosperous Presbyterian businessman in Sydney and his widow, Elizabeth Frazer.

...strikingly beautiful church built with a gift of £500...

'It reflects significantly the rapid growth of the Scottish and Northern Irish Presbyterian community in the Lower Mountains in the last years of the nineteenth century.

'The design of the Frazer Memorial Church is a tribute to the important architectural firm of Slayter and Cosh, later known as Spain and Cosh; Spain, Cosh and Minnet; and Spain, Cosh and Dods.

'The Frazer Memorial Church features high quality stonework in its handsome Federation gothic design.

'The design of the church is completed by the fine sandstone tower with the tall copper spire.

'Its spire and its location in the centre of the commercial centre of Springwood make it an important landmark in the town.

'The trees associated with the Frazer Memorial Church, the Cedar of Lebanon (*Cedrus libani*) Jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*) and the Illawarra Flame Tree (*Brachychiton acerifolius*) are of high aesthetic significance at a local level for their value as individual specimens and for their contribution to a complex of considerable value in the streetscape of Springwood.

Historical notes attached to the State Heritage Inventory listing indicate 'The funds to build this strikingly beautiful church derive from the bequest of £500 and the

gift of 1.4 hectare (3.5 acres) in central Springwood made by John Frazer, who died in 1884.

'Frazer was a successful Sydney merchant. Born in co Down in 1827 to an artisan Presbyterian family, he had come from Ireland to seek his fortune in Australia along with three siblings when he was fifteen years old.

'After a period working in the bush, followed by a clerical position in Sydney, Frazer opened a wholesale grocery business in 1847 and never looked back, leaving an estate of £400 000 pounds on his death.

'The firm of John Frazer and Co was under John Frazer's control until his early retirement due to ill-health in 1869, but his partners in the business were able men, a brother and two brothers-in-law of Elizabeth Ewan, whom John married in 1853.

'In the 1870s, John Frazer resumed his interest in the business and took a larger role in public life, as a member of the NSW Legislative Council from 1874 until his death ten years later and as a philanthropist.

'Two fine fountains, one in Hyde Park, the other at the entrance to

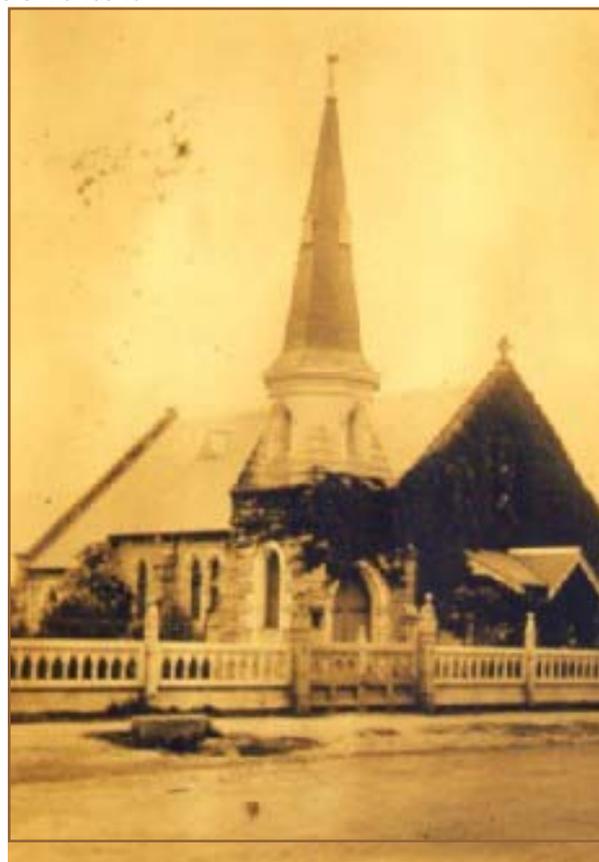
the Domain, are surviving memorials to his generosity to the city; the University of Sydney, where he hoped to fund the chair of History, still awards the Frazer scholarship in History; and he is remembered in the Presbyterian foundation, St Andrew's College, within the university, as a founding councillor in 1870 and the donor of funds to assist candidates for the Presbyterian ministry studying at the College. (Maddock, 5-13; ADB IV 218-9)

'Frazer's connection with the Blue Mountains began in earnest when he built Silva Plana at Springwood in 1881.

'This country retreat on the east side of Hawkesbury Road, on a landscaped site of 14 hectares (35 acres) now partly occupied by the Buckland retirement village, was characteristic of the Mountain estates developed in the later Victorian period by a number of Sydney businessmen, politicians and lawyers, including friends of Frazer's such as Sir Henry Parkes, whose son Varney designed Silva Plana. (Searle and Morony, 6, 32; Robinson, map of Springwood c.1910)

Continued page 8

***An early
image of the
Frazer
Memorial
Church
showing the
ornate
sandstone
fence.
Photograph
courtesy
Springwood
Local Study
Collection.***



Mrs Frazer sent her gardener to the church

Continued from page 7

'Frazer survived only three years after building Silva Plana, but spent a good deal of time there and was anxious to provide a church for the increasing Presbyterian community on the Lower Mountains.

'In 1884 Springwood had no church of any denomination and Frazer, with the encouragement of his friend, the Reverend James Cameron, a fellow councillor of St Andrew's College, who had in his early years in the 1850s been responsible for the Lower Mountains as well as his main centre at Richmond, donated land he had acquired from Frank Raymond's grant in central Springwood, in a very long narrow allotment, and instructed his trustees to spend £500 on the building of a Presbyterian church there. (Maddock, 7-19)

'There was, however, a long interval between Frazer's death in 1884 and the opening of the church in 1895.

'This was caused by the reluctance of his trustees to release the money until it was plain that there were sufficient Presbyterians in the Springwood area to support a minister.

'Despite the active interest of the Presbytery of the Hawkesbury, stimulated by Dr Cameron of Richmond and Dr Clouston of Penrith, the trustees were cautious.

'In 1893 the first Presbyterian services in Springwood were held under the turpentine on the land donated by Frazer, just where the great cedar of Lebanon stands today, then in the Oriental Hotel and finally in 1895 on the verandah of James Lawson's Braemar. Attendance increased dramatically from 25 to 50 to 100, and the trustees were convinced, once the local people had guaranteed £60 a year for the minister. (Maddock, 20-8)

'On August 17, 1895 the foundation stone for the church was laid by the sister of the widowed Mrs Frazer, who was abroad. At the same time memorial stones were laid by Mrs Frazer's sister, the widow of John Frazer's business partner, William Manson; by Mrs Rayner, wife of the

Methodist storekeeper whose premises were just across the road; by Mrs Ellis, wife of John Ellis of Valley Heights, who had signed the building contract on behalf of the church; and by Mrs Flora Urquhart, the daughter of James Lawson, the Scottish cabinet-maker who had built Braemar and the Oriental Hotel, where services had been held in expectation of the building of the church. (Maddock, 26-7)

'The church was opened only three months later, on December 8, 1895. (Maddock, 36, 55, 74)

'Mrs Frazer returned from her trip to Europe and the Near East in 1896, bearing the seed from which the cedar of Lebanon grew beside the church, on the site of the grove of turpentine where the first services had been held.

'Elizabeth Frazer was not satisfied with the church building, however,

as the Lower Blue Mountains Presbyterian magazine commented in December 1945, Mrs Frazer immediately had additions made and the building beautified.

'The present chancel and the porch and steeple were added. Further, she sent her gardener [from Silva Plana] to lay out the grounds and plant the trees, which add to the beauty of the surroundings. (Maddock, 35)'

REFERENCES

1. A substantial portion of this text has been copied verbatim from the NSW Environment & Heritage website www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritage Blue Mountains City Council LEP 2005.
2. Maddock John *The Frazer Memorial Church - A History*, 1995, Springwood Historical Society Inc.

Blue Mountains History Conference

THE 2014 Blue Mountains History Conference being organised by the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations Inc, will be held again at The Carrington Hotel, following the success of the 2012 event in this venue.

The conference will be held on Saturday, May 10, 2014 and already a number of speakers have been secured.

Associate professor Ian Jack, MA, PhD, FRHistS, FRAHS will give a talk on historical educational buildings.

Ian served as president of the Royal Australian Historical Society for 11 years and is regarded as an eminent historian with numerous books and other publications to his credit. He has been described by one of his peers as a "consummate scholar".

He is constantly being sought as a speaker around the state and throughout the nation.

Another speaker will be Hector Abrahams, a heritage architect and former RAHS councillor, who will give a talk on historical buildings built for religious activities including churches and schools.

Hec has a deep interest in the architecture of old places - the repair conservation and sensitive changes to buildings and the addition of new buildings within an existing precinct.

He has worked on larger projects including the new wings at St Paul's and St Andrew's Colleges at the University of Sydney, and the Sydney GPO.

He is very familiar with the architecture of many of the religious buildings in this region.

Final arrangements with speakers is expected to be made in January and information will be available from Jan Koperberg at j.koperberg@bigpond.com.au

The fee for the conference, morning tea and buffet lunch at The Carrington will be \$50.

WOODFORD ACADEMY LAUNCHES BICENTENARY SCHOOL PROGRAM

Seriously 'Old School'

In commemoration of the bicentenary of the crossing of the Blue Mountains 2013-2015, the Woodford Academy, a National Trust property, is thrilled to launch the bicentenary school program.

The bicentenary school program provides the opportunity for school students to experience first hand the Blue Mountains' unique and intriguing colonial history within the walls of the Blue Mountains' oldest building.

The bicentenary school program offers a guided tour developed especially for school children.

The tour, presented by skilled volunteers in the tradition of oral histories, tells the story of the Woodford Academy and its changing uses over time.

Admission cost for the guided tour will be \$5/student for a 2 hour program (morning or afternoon) and is available from Term 1 of 2014 for groups of up to 60 students plus supervising teachers.

The Woodford Academy is also offering free entry to teachers and their families (up to 4 persons) for the museum's monthly open days in 2013-2015.

This special educational offer is intended to encourage and inspire teachers to devise their own ways in which they can use this rich resource to teach curricula for history, the arts and technologies.

To be eligible for this special offer, interested teachers are requested to complete the information form in the new bicentenary school program brochure, which Woodford Academy volunteers have commenced distributing to Blue Mountains primary schools.



Members of the Woodford Academy Management Committee (from left) Felicity Anderson, Ian Harman and Ken Goodlet with the new Bicentenary School Program brochure at the Woodford Academy

Costs for teacher initiated educational programs will be assessed on application, depending on requirements.

The bicentenary school program brochure will also be available at the door at the Woodford

Academy's next monthly open day – or interested schools can contact the Woodford Academy management committee by phone (02) 4758 8743 or email Woodfordacadmey@gmail.com.

Bicentenary tributes to George Evans and William Cox

IN ALL the plethora of the 2013 bicentenary celebrations of the Blue Mountains crossing scant attention has been paid to two other important aspects of the event.

Immediately after the three explorers' trek, at the behest of the government, there was the professional surveying of the ridge-top route by George Evans.

Next came the road-making itself, done in exemplary fashion by convicts working hard under William Cox, buoyed up by a promise of remission of their sentences when the road was completed.

A small monument to George Evans (the road builder) has recently been moved from private land.

Lindsay Green of Lithgow Branch of National Trust Australia (NSW) has advised that that the monument is now located on land

owned by Lithgow City Council near where Evans had begun the descent to the Fish River.

Meanwhile, Hawkesbury Historical Society and a Cox descendant have recently organised the unveiling of two plaques at the Visitor Information Centre, Clarendon.

These two plaques are a bicentenary tribute to William Cox and George Evans, the two Hawkesbury men who were so instrumental in bringing about the construction of the first road over the Blue Mountains.

The ceremony at Lithgow and Clarendon commemorated the commencement of George Evans survey of the road on November 20, 1813.

William Cox completed the supervision of building the road from Emu Plains to Bathurst between July 24, 1814 and January 1815.

The Gully, officially opened



AS PART OF the Bicentenary Festival of Walking, The Gully, Katoomba was officially opened on Saturday October 5, 2013, The guest of honour was Neville Poelina, chair of World Indigenous Tourism Alliance.

This event followed the very successful 'Ancestral Pathways' walk, organised by Auntie Sharyn Halls from the Gundungurra Aboriginal Heritage Association.

The aim of the walk was to show people the best way to know Country, by walking Country.

Members of the Association traversed the Blue Mountains from west to east, following Aboriginal pathways.

The walk included both traditional and post-contact Aboriginal pathways, covering 67 kms of Country.

Participants were invited to do the full walk over seven days and six nights or join the group for sections of the walk.

The walk affirmed the ongoing presence of Aboriginal people in the mountains. It shows they maintain the connection by walking their country, looking after it and utilising it for cultural purposes.

Image above: Gundungurra Ancestral Pathway Walk - Dancers at The Gully historic site, Katoomba. Photograph by David Hill, Blue Mountains, Lithgow and Oberon Tourism.

Wiradjuri Dance and Corroboree gathering at Bathurst

The WIRADJURli Wagangha Dance group featured in the Wiradjuri Dance and Corroboree gathering in the vicinity of Mt Pleasant in the grounds of Abercrombie House earlier this month.

The gathering acknowledged the 200 year anniversary of the first contact between the Wiradjuri people and the arriving European explorers which took place near this site of December 21 1813.

It also acknowledged the naming of

the Bathurst Plains and Mount Pleasant by surveyor George Evans on December 10, 1813.

The gathering also acknowledged that the last Wiradjuri Corroboree in the vicinity of Mt Pleasant took place 164 years ago in 1849.

The evening was organised by the Wiradjuri Elders of the Bathurst Plains together with Bathurst Historical Society and the Morgan family to celebrate the endurance and renewal of Wiradjuri culture and customs on the Bathurst Plains

British campaign ends gallery's bid to buy historic animal art

THE NATIONAL Gallery of Australia was "extremely disappointed" when earlier this month it was blocked from buying two paintings representing the first known depictions of Australian animals in Western art.

The 18th century works by George Stubbs will remain in Britain after a \$2.5 million donation by billionaire shipping magnate Eyal Ofer enabled the country's National Maritime Museum to buy the paintings of a kangaroo and a dingo.

Joseph Banks commissioned Stubbs to paint the works after the naturalist returned from Captain James Cook's first Endeavour voyage.

World renowned naturalist, Sir David Attenborough, who headed the British "Save Our Stubbs" campaign, said: "Exciting news that these two pictures so important in the history of zoological discovery are to remain where they were commissioned and painted.



According to former Art Gallery of NSW director, Edmund Capon said: "I can't feel it's a huge loss to be honest.

"You have to recognise the fact both animals were painted in Britain. They weren't painted here. They have never been her." **The Sydney Morning Herald.**

The making of a possum skin cloak

By Jan Koperberg

THE GUNDUNGURRA Tribal Council and Blue Mountains Cultural Centre invited the Blue Mountains community to observe the making of a traditional possum skin cloak in the Cultural Centre Central Courtyard in late September.

The Saturday of the three day workshop was windy and the carefully laid out possum skins (from New Zealand) were being blown out of order. They had been laid out and numbered, as they were to be sewn.

Possum skin cloaks (Carreng Golangaya in Gundungurra language) are one of the most sacred artefacts for Aboriginal people.

This workshop represented an important healing for the Gundungurra, who worked with Auntie Maree Clarke, an artist and curator from Banmirra Arts and Auntie Esther Kirk, both from Victoria, with assistance from Amanda Reynolds, the senior curator for the 'Our Story' section of the new First Peoples exhibition at Melbourne Museum. Amanda was a guest speaker at the recent RAHS State conference held at Katoomba RSL Club.



The possum skin cloak being held by Kerren O'Grady



Aunty Sharon Brown on the left, holding up the possum skin cloak, showing the burnt patterns on the skin side.

On the Saturday there were many observers, itching to help and Auntie Sharon Brown from the Gundungurra Tribal Council gave permission for interested observers to help with the sewing.

I was privileged to take part and enjoyed the experience, working with the team. I was not able to return on the Sunday, but the cloak was finished and Auntie Maree and Auntie Esther showed the method of applying patterns and burning them onto the skin side of the cloak.

I think the patterns were applied by Tom Brown, Sharon's artist husband, and they are beautifully finished. Auntie Maree and Auntie Esther then headed back to Sydney airport for their flight back to Melbourne.

Never mind Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth; it's

All about Evans

First European explorer to cross the Great Divide and survey a route to Bathurst

Tarella Open Day January 18 10am-4pm
Crossings reading by Wendy Blaxland > Display of the 1814 lifestyle > Talk on Evans > Tarella cottage museum inspecton > Family friendly > no need to book just come and explore > refreshments available

In the grounds of Hobbys Reach, the home of the Blue Mountains Historical Society,
99-101 Blaxland Road, Wentworth Falls



Historic sharing culture — Aboriginal commemoration walk ‘Jummangunda Ngunninga’

by Jan Koperberg

The Aboriginal commemoration walk ‘Jummangunda Ngunninga’ (Gundungurra language meaning ‘many belonging here’) was held at Mt York and Bardens Lookout, Mount Victoria on Sunday October 13, 2013. This was a historic sharing culture event.

The Gundungurra Tribal Council, the Gundungurra Aboriginal Heritage Association and the Blue Mountains Lithgow & Oberon Tourism invited people to attend as part of the Bicentenary Festival of Walking.

This walk was conceived by Auntie Sharon Brown (Gundungurra elder) and welcomed representatives of all six Aboriginal language groups from across the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, (the Darkinjung, Darug, Dharawal, Gundungurra, Wiradjuri and Wonnarua), locals and visitors.

This special event recognised the impact of European settlement on Australia’s first inhabitants, and allowed Indigenous people to proudly share their culture with others ‘on Country’.

Aboriginal people and groups proactively involved in the bicentenary organised this event so that in 2013, the nature of what is recognised and commemorated included Aboriginal participation.

This demonstrated that community attitudes and cultural awareness have evolved since centenary

Exhibition of bark paintings

Among the treasures of the National Museum of Australia are more than 2000 bark paintings created by Indigenous artists.

Later this year the museum will open a major exhibition devoted to the remarkable artists who made these paintings.

The 122 paintings will include the works of famed artists such as Narritjin Maymuru, Yirawala, Djunmal and Mawalan Marika.



Walkers prepare for the commemoration walk ‘Jummangunda Ngunninga’ walk from Bardens Lookout to Mt York.

(1913) and sesquicentenary (1963) events conducted at Mt York.

Blue Mountains City Council has completed an important upgrade of the Mt York precinct and it is now truly a world class interpretive historic site.

A ceremony was held at Mt York, where a plaque was unveiled, on which the text read as below.

The group then walked from Mt York to Bardens Lookout, where an Aboriginal smoking and healing ceremony was held, along with the sharing of cultural performances and stories.

During this ceremony the possum skin cloak was handed to Cr Daniel Myles to be exhibited at the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre.

The main Commemoration Walk ‘Jummangunda Ngunninga’ took place from Bardens Lookout to Mt York.

After lunch, I was lucky to be treated to an interpretive walk by Kathleen Brown, the daughter of Tom and Sharon Brown.

We caught the shuttle bus from Mt York and alighted at the entrance to Lawson’s Long Alley.

We walked from here to Lucinda Oval where my car was parked.

Along the way Kathleen showed me scarred trees (where bark had been removed to make items for use by early Aboriginal people), showed me different plants and described their uses, either for medicinal or for bush tucker.

I now know that a flour can be made from the seeds of the Lomandra.

She also showed me how the small banksia with very strong bristles could be used as a hair-brush and with softer bristles, how the end of the brush could be used for painting.

***‘Not how did they die, but how did they live.
Not what did they gain, but what did they give.
These are the units to measure the worth,
Of a people, as a people, regardless of birth.
Recognising the impact of European settlement on the
Six Aboriginal language groups of the
Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area;
Darkinjung, Darug, Dharawal, Gundungurra, Wiradjuri and
Wonnarua.
Community Aboriginal Commemoration Walk,
13 October 2013
Blue Mountains Crossings Bicentenary’***

RETROSPECTION AND CONTINUITY - THE COX'S ROAD JOURNEY A village discovers its past

by Joan Kent

As the Western Crossings commemoration activities come to a close for 2013, a period of retrospection is necessary before the contemplation of plans for the continuation of the Cox's Road journey begin.

The communities west of the plains were treated with a fascinating array of events and activities acknowledging the first recorded crossing of the Blue Mountains by Europeans in 1813.

Some were formal civic events which reflected the changes wrought on the landscape, whilst others attempted to capture the cultural and social atmosphere of the mountains and valleys to the west two hundred years ago, involving the present population in aspects of colonial life not now often contemplated.

The Hartley Valley folk focussed on bringing the history of the local area to the present population, some of whom had previously had little interest in the past - in the process bringing to life an era which has often been culturally blinkered and romanticised.

The commemorative activities involved guided walks along the route of the original Cox's Road, now substantially located within private land holdings – not ending at Mt York so often believed as the termination of the original trek, but at Glenroy, the final campsite along the route.

These walks have proven so popular that requests have been received to make them an annual event.

A horseback version was well into the planning process when an infectious equine disease brought this to an abrupt halt.

Again it is planned to revive the activity in the future.

Also enormously popular was the exhibition 'A Moment in Time' displayed in the Old Hartley School Hall, often attracting the descendants of many former residents of the Hartley area from all over the state and even some overseas visitors.

So warmly was the exhibition received that the members of the Western Crossings Trust, the administrative body supporting the Hartley commemorations, were persuaded that a lasting memoir of the events should be produced and so the printed version of 'A Moment in Time' came into being, despite the exhaustion of the dedicated band of local volunteers.

Expanded from the exhibition, the book of the same name was produced by a trio of professionals, with research and text by historian Joan Kent in collaboration with internationally renowned theatre designer Michael O'Kane and graphic artist Kaylene Brooks, all of whom are local residents.



Historian and author, Joan Kent autographing a copy of 'A Moment in Time'. Image courtesy Carolyn Piggott, Lithgow Mercury.

The book begins with a consideration of the rich and ancient geology of the landscape into which the 1813 explorers intruded and moves on to examine many aspects of the 'crossing story', from the original inhabitants whose country was being traversed, to the development of the Bathurst Road and the first Europeans in the Bathurst region.

It closes with the life and achievements of some of the earliest European settlers in the Hartley Valley who began their new lives there in the early 1820's.

The book was formally launched in October at the Lithgow Learning Centre by internationally acclaimed 'plein air' landscape artist Warwick Fuller, also a local resident of Hartley Valley.

Warwick's great great grandparents settled in the valley in 1839, raising twelve children who attended the former Schoolhouse Creek School in Kanimbla Valley.

Warwick was recently a member of the Royal Visit Party at the personal invitation of His Royal Highness Prince Charles, who now has four of Warwick's landscapes in his private collection. Poet George Clark recited his poem 'A Moment in Time' from the book, inspired by George's visit to the Images Exhibition in May and June.

Continued page 14

The question of promoting the crossing stories to a wider public

Continued from page 13

The pleasant evening concluded with the mayor of Lithgow, Councillor Maree Statham cutting and distributing 'The Moment' cake to those in attendance.

The book is available at \$29.95 including postage, Perfect Bound, 200x260 in full colour from Barbara Wheat at thewheats@bigpond.com or Joan Kent at joantomkent@bigpond.com.

A deluxe hardcover full colour edition, 290x320 is available from Blurb Books at \$131 plus postage from the US at <http://blurb.by/1cpKjKp>.

All proceeds go to the Western Crossings Trust, the charitable entity established by the Hartley District Progress Association to promote consideration of the consequences of the crossing of the Blue Mountains by Europeans in 1813, and the acquisition of items of moveable cultural heritage relevant to the Hartley Valley.

Donations to the Western Crossings Trust are welcomed and are tax deductible.

The question now under consideration for all with an interest in the history of the European settlement of the 'New Country' is

'Whither Goest Thou?'

Careful thought must be given to the continuation or otherwise of the presentation of the crossings stories to the wider public, and indeed the long-term storage, preservation and extension of the products of the 2013 commemorations to encompass the progress of the 'Journey to Bathurst and beyond' over ensuing years.

This article was contributed by professional historian and curator of the outstanding exhibition, *A Moment in Time* Joan Kent officially opened and acclaimed by the Governor of NSW Professor Marie Bashir.

The exhibition was the major plank in the Western Crossing commemoration activity of the Hartley Valley District Progress Association.

Historian with song writing to his credit becomes president at Kurrajong

STEVE RAWLING AM, (pictured) the newly elected president of the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society, was a founding member of the society, and has been a member of its committee at various times.

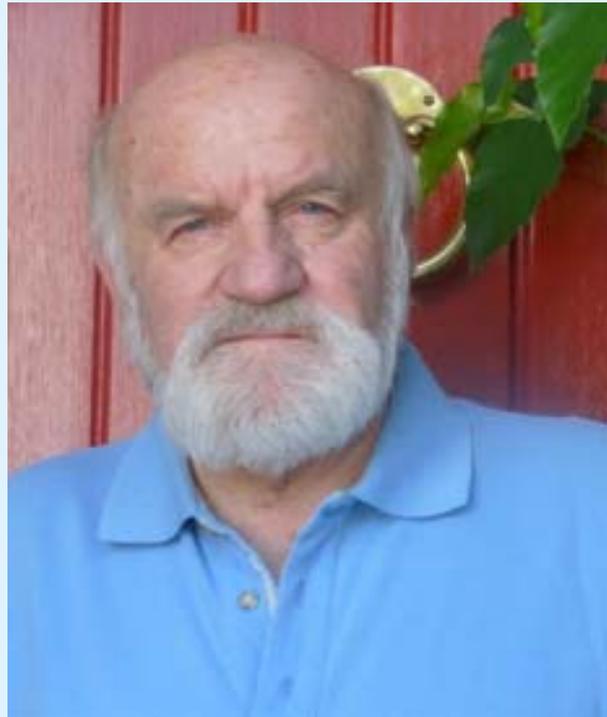
His initial interest in local history was sparked by the discovery that the property he has lived on since 1996 in Kurrajong Heights is part of the larger property once owned by Louisa Atkinson, "the botanist of the Kurrajong" and pioneer woman writer.

He has contributed a number of articles about Louisa and on other topics to the society's newsletter *The Millstone*, as well as speaking about related topics to the society and to other community groups in the Hawkesbury.

He has written a suite of songs which was produced as a CD and songbook entitled "Memories of Kurrajong – History in Song" which was presented at the National Folk Festival in Canberra some years ago.

He was also a founding member of the Hawkesbury Branch of the National Trust, having been a member of the National Trust of Australia (NSW) for more than forty years. He has served as chair and secretary of the Hawkesbury Branch.

Steve has spent almost all his working career in the university sector, including periods at the universities of Sydney, Oxford and Wollongong, and the Australian National University.



He now has a part-time consulting role at the University of Western Sydney.

He was made a member of the Order of Australia in 1992 for services to education.

He has also been involved as a director and chairman of an environmental consultancy run by his wife, Judie, and is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Persistence wins museum a grant

PERSISTENCE and a change of ideas about its museum's collection has seen the Mount Victoria and District Historical Society recently being successful in receiving a Community Heritage grant for \$4686 from the National Library of Australia.

The Community Heritage grant is for a significance assessment to be carried out on some of the collection of its museum.

Roy Bennett the curator applied for the grant which is to fund the services of an assessor and the society's president, Jean Winston attended the workshop in Canberra organised by the National Library and other federal bodies to gain more insight into the meaning of significance and to learn more about conservation.

The society had been unsuccessful before but Roy thought on the second try that he had portrayed the historical associations of the collection in a better way.

The collection has to be of national significance.

Other criteria required are historical, aesthetic, scientific/research or social/spiritual.

An important part of the collection is showing the opening up of the Blue Mountains and lands to the west by road and rail.

The actual tools used by the early land holders are on display.

Memorabilia and exploits of the explorers, surveyors and road makers, including convicts, form part of the collection.

The museum itself is housed in the sandstone railway station opened in 1868 and still operating.

The railway brought tourists to the area and local hotels catering to the tourists who are depicted in photographs and memorabilia.

Notable people have lived at Mount Victoria: Sir Henry Parkes and the Fairfaxes had grand houses built in the coolness of the mountains.

Ms Anne-Marie Schwirtlich, director general of the National Library of Australia presenting the grant documents to Mrs Jean Winston, president Mt Victoria and District Historical Society.

COMMUNITY HERITAGE GRANTS 2013



At Blackheath a unique girls school Osborne Ladies College, run on naval lines, had boarders and day girls. One room at the museum is dedicated to memorabilia from that school.

Roy detailed these unique events and showed how the museum collection told the stories of what had happened locally.

Community groups will have a greater capacity to preserve Australia's heritage with the announcement of the 2013 Community Heritage grants.

A total of 78 grants worth \$426,000 will go to 77 community groups and organisations, with the History Trust of South Australia, the recipient of two grants.

Recipients also attended a three-day intensive preservation and

collection management workshop held at the National Library of Australia, the National Archives of Australia, the National Museum of Australia and the National Film and Sound Archive in Canberra.

Director-General of the National Library Anne-Marie Schwirtlich said the CHG program showed the commitment by the National Library, along with its partner institutions and the federal government, to assist communities to care for the nation's heritage, in the cities, the country or out in remote Australia..

The Community Heritage grants program is funded by the Australian government through the National Library of Australia; Ministry for the Arts, Attorney General's Department; the National Archives of Australia; the National Film and Sound Archive; and the National Museum of Australia.

Governor to open Valley Heights Loco Depot museum

The Governor of NSW, Professor Marie Bashir has agreed to officially open the Valley Heights Locomotive Depot on January 31, 2014 as the first event of a year-long centenary of the depot.

Her Excellency will be accompanied by her husband Sir Nicholas Shehadie.

For further details of centenary activities
www.infobluemountains.net.au/locodepot/centenary.shtml



Friends of the Paragon formed

STRONG SUPPORT has been given to the formation of the Friends of the Paragon.

At a recent meeting in the heritage Paragon Restaurant, Katoomba it was decided to form a group to ensure the conservation of this heritage icon.



Paragon cocktail bar

The lessee of the premises Robyn Parker told the meeting that help was needed to ensure this piece of heritage did not disappear.

The general objectives, to be properly defined in due course in a formal document, include:

1. research into the history of the Paragon and the Simos family
2. assisting in tours of the Paragon for groups
3. assisting in the preparation of a renewed nomination of the building and its contents to the State Heritage Register
4. public advocacy
5. approaches to the Greek community (and others) in Australia for support
6. creating a program of public events in 2014 to raise the profile of the Paragon
7. establishing a Paragon Foundation in the hope that the property can be purchased.

The meeting heard that research is under way by Robyn Parker and Ian Jack and that Doreen Knox (who is a fluent speaker of modern Greek) will use her Greek connections.



Paragon wall pieces

Two people present at the meeting, Doreen Knox and Robert Trenchard-Smith, have volunteered to be tour guides and Ms Parker will organise a training session for them both in the near future.

Ian Jack said he will take carriage of a nomination for State listing and will talk to members of the listing team at the Heritage Division of the Office of Environment and Heritage.

Doreen Knox, has subsequent to the meeting, documented the existence of the Kytherian Association of Australia, in which George Poulos is a prominent member.

Since the Simos family and many other café-owning families came directly or indirectly from the island of Kythera, this flourishing association is of the greatest interest.

A short program of events is being finalised by Robyn Parker.

The Kytherian Association may be a key to the establishment of the Paragon Foundation.

The next meeting of those interested in the project is scheduled for Thursday February 20, 2014, at 6 pm in the Paragon.

Contributed by Ian Jack who represented BMACHO at the meeting.

New strategy for Australian heritage

IDEAS and suggestions for an Australian Heritage Strategy are being requested by the federal government.

Minister for the Environment, Greg Hunt said he wanted to hear from heritage practitioners and experts across Australia.

"The Australian Heritage Strategy will provide a common framework and priorities for Australia's heritage and help ensure our heritage is recognised and protected for future generations," Mr Hunt said.

"A draft strategy will be released for public comment in Australian Heritage Week next year."

He said the government's plan was to develop partnerships and provide initiatives that enabled practical local actions and solutions to protect and manage heritage places.

"We are providing \$1.4 million over three years for small-scale community heritage projects for the conservation, protection and interpretation of local heritage.

Grants of up to \$10 000 will be available to local heritage groups and historical societies, commencing in the 2014-15 financial year," Mr Hunt said.



Greg Hunt MP

"Under the Community Heritage and Icons program we will invest \$1.5 million on vital restoration work at Port Arthur's World Heritage-listed penitentiary building, one of Australia's most significant heritage icons."

Mr Hunt said the government's Green Army would also play a key role in the protection of local heritage.

"Green Army projects will focus on the conservation and refurbishment of significant local heritage while contributing to a skilled workforce for heritage-focused business and industry," he said.

Sandstone the making of the Blue Mountains

Blue Mountains City Council has agreed to a round of small grants to assist owners of heritage listed buildings or places to carry out sympathetic repairs or restorations.

NSW Heritage Branch will provide a grant of \$8500 and this has been matched by council to provide a fund of \$17,000.

Applications closing on December 20 have been invited from owners of listed heritage buildings or from owners of a building within a heritage conservation area or period housing area.

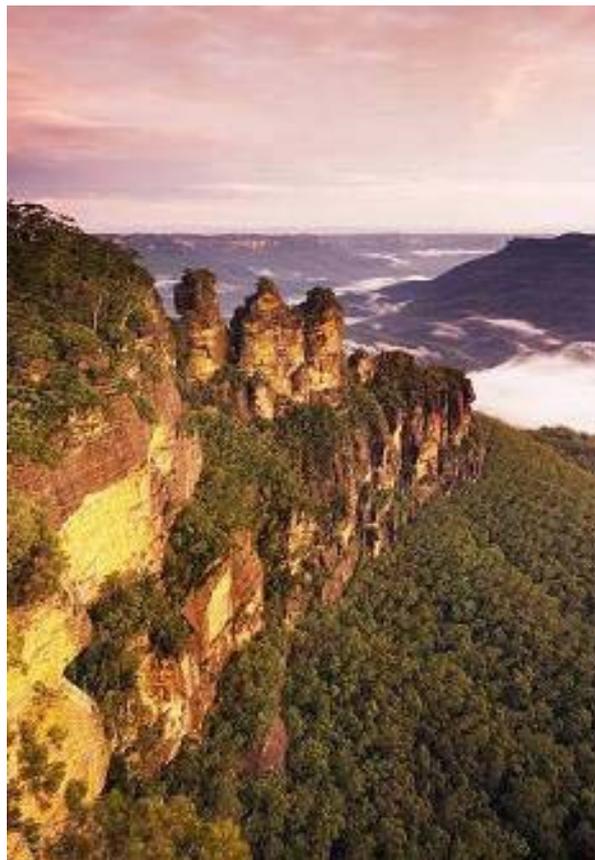
The grants are targeted at small projects ready for an immediate start and which must be complete by mid April 2014.

The program is being managed by council with support from the heritage advisory committee.

The committee has suggested that one of the grant priorities is sandstone repair and restoration projects, but a range of other projects will be considered.

These could include repainting of exteriors of residences and shops, repairs or decorative external timberwork or joinery, repairs of shop fronts, awnings or repairs to streetscape or wider community benefit will also be considered and should be discussed with council staff and the heritage adviser beforehand.

Applicants must confirm that their project can commence early in 2014 and can be completed by mid April 2014.



A copy of the standard LHF guidelines and application forms can be downloaded from council's website or by contacting council on 4780 5740

Lights to be installed opposite Woodford Academy

Traffic lights are now planned to allow pedestrians to cross the Great Western Highway opposite Woodford Academy.

Road and Maritime Services (RMS) has scrapped its proposal for a pedestrian refuge island on the widened highway near Arthur Street in favour of traffic lights.

Woodford Academy chairman Ian Harman said it was fitting pedestrian safety would be boosted before the highway widening project was completed through Woodford in 2014, given the tragic

circumstances of former Woodford Academy resident and principal, John McManamey's death on the highway in 1946.

John McManamey established Woodford Academy in 1907 as a 'young gentleman's school'. Woodford Academy closed in 1925 and McManamey used the building as a private residence.

He reopened the school for local children in 1930 it closing in 1936.

In 1979 his sole surviving daughter Gertrude donated Woodford

Academy to the National Trust of Australia (NSW) on condition she could live there until she died. She died in 1988 having left the property 2 years earlier.

National Trust received a \$1 million Centenary of Federation grant from the Australian government in 2001.

REFERENCE:

Leary, Nanette, *A brief history of Woodford Academy*, 2005, Friends of Woodford Academy.



Nepean Historical Society joins BMACHO

The Nepean District Historical Society is the latest to join as a member of BMACHO.

The society has its home in the Arms of Australia Inn Museum at Emu Plains the gateway to the Blue Mountains.

The inn was once a staging post for travellers making the trip from Sydney over the Blue Mountains to Bathurst and the goldfields.

Built in two sections, the first in 1826, it is one of the oldest buildings in Penrith, if not the oldest.

'Our Jan' honoured for work on Western Crossings Committee

AMONG the individuals to recently receive a Blue Mountains, Lithgow & Oberon Tourism Award of Excellence 2013 for contribution to the Blue Mountains bicentenary, was BMACHO's hard working and popular secretary, Jan Koperberg.

Jan has also been the minutes secretary of Western Crossings committee since its inception.

INDIVIDUALS to receive the award were: Auntie Sharyn Halls, Bob Kemnitz, Clr Daniel Myles, Dr Anne-Maree Whitaker, Dr Siobhán Lavelle OAM, Jan Koperberg, Jessica Blaxland-Ashby, John O'Sullivan, Ken Goodlet, Melissa Mylchreest, Meryl Butterworth, Philip Hammon, Professor David Carment, Randall Walker, Sandy Holmes, Tanya Loviz, Tom Colless OAM, Trevor

Lloyd, Uncle Graeme Cooper and Wendy Blaxland.

BMACHO member organisations to be recognized were the Blue Mountains Historical Society and Hartley District Valley Progress Association.

ORGANISATIONS to receive the award were: Blaxland & Districts Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Blue Mountains City Council, Blue Mountains Historical Society, Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School, Blue Mountains Lithgow & Oberon Tourism, Chamber of Commerce and Industry Lawson, Falls Wines, Garden Clubs of Australia, Gundungurra Aboriginal Heritage Association, Hartley District Progress Association,



Jan Koperberg with her award

Katoomba Theatre Company, Lithgow City Council, Penrith City Council, Royal Australian Historical Society, TAFE Western Sydney Institute, Wentworth Falls Chamber of Commerce and Windowrie Estate.

NATIONAL TRUST HONOURS AWARDS 2013

FIVE OF THE 20 people statewide to be honoured with National Trust of Australia (NSW) awards at the Trust's annual general meeting on November 30 are associated with Trust properties in the Blue Mountains.

Top honours go to the granddaughter of Norman Lindsay, Ms Helen Glad who becomes an honorary life member of the National Trust and the manager Norman Lindsay Gallery and Museum, Amanda Trevillion who has received the staff distinguished service award.

Those to receive the voluntary service awards were Mrs Leonie Fry (Friends of Norman Lindsay

Gallery), Mrs Jean Reynolds (Friends of Norman Lindsay Gallery) and Mrs Elizabeth van Reyswoud (Friends of Everglades and National Trust -Blue Mountains Branch.

Mrs Sandra Luxford of the Friends of Everglades received the Trust commendation award.



Helen Glad



Amanda Trevillion



Elizabeth van Reyswoud



Sandra Luxford



Jean Reynolds

Blue Mountains new plan goes on exhibition

A PLANNING document to guide land use and development in the Blue Mountains went on public exhibition earlier this month.

Blue Mountains City Council's Draft Local Environment Plan (DLEP) 2013 has been the subject of long negotiations with the state government.

Blue Mountains mayor Mark Greenhill said the council's DLEP 2013 has been prepared in response to the NSW government requirement for all councils in NSW to prepare a new plan based on a standard template.

"The DLEP 2013 is essentially a conversion of council's existing planning document into a single comprehensive LEP for the city that complies with the NSW government's standard format while maintaining the key provision in our current LEPS," he said.

"In doing this, council has made a considerable effort to ensure the

DLEP 2013 is a 'best fit' with the standard LEP, providing the planning framework that aims to protect our unique environment while permitting appropriate development in the future.

"All residents will notice that the zoning of their land will have a new name, and the permitted land uses may have changed, but for the most properties in the Blue Mountains the change will be minimal the mayor has said.

The public exhibition period for the DLEP 2013 started on December 4 and will conclude on March 4, 2014.

For further information on the DLEP 2013 and to have a say visit www.bluemountainshaveyoursay.com.au/draftlep2013

Mayor Greenhill said, "council acknowledges the commitment of the public exhibition in December is not the ideal time to engage the community on a significant planning proposal, however council is



Mayor Mark Greenhill

required to adhere to the direction of the NSW Government.

In recognition of this, council has extended the closing time of the exhibition to March 2014 to ensure adequate time for the community to get involved."

SOURCE: Blue Mountains Gazette December 4, 2013 - Shane Desiatnick

NSW Government withdraws controversial planning bill

THE NSW government has withdrawn the proposed controversial planning legislation; the planning minister, Brad Hazzard indicating it could not accept the heavy amendments imposed by the upper house. .

Elizabeth Vines OAM president, Australia – International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)



Liz Vines, OAM

has said the state government's landmark planning reforms are now under serious threat after the NSW upper house blocked key parts of the new laws.

"Community groups say the changes are an 'immense win' that will give residents a voice on what is built in their neighbourhoods.

"A new, streamlined development pathway known as 'code assessment' was stripped from the bill.

"Under this system, if a development in high-growth areas meets agreed requirements, such as building type, heights and environmental standards, it would have needed to be approved by a council within 25 days, and the community's right to object would be limited.

"The government has now announced that it cannot accept the amendments and has withdrawn the

legislation while it considers its response, and is likely to reintroduce the legislation in March 2014.

"Notwithstanding the amendments passed in the NSW upper house, a number of aspects of the proposed changes have not been amended and remain of concern to Australia ICOMOS and the many other professional and community groups with an interest in the issue.

"What is also of concern is that the minister and organisations with a vested interest in removing many of the current heritage safeguards are portraying those who have lodged submissions against aspects of the proposed legislation as a minority of extremists.

"However, A-ICOMOS will continue to monitor the situation and make further presentations as required to get the best possible outcome for the care and management of our cultural heritage," Ms Vines said.

BLUE MOUNTAINS HISTORY JOURNAL No. 4

NOW ONLINE

The *Blue Mountains History Journal* No. 4 now online and also available in bound hard copy of six papers and one note is the largest edition so far since the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations (BMACHO) decided on such a publication.

President of BMACHO, John Leary said editor of the *Blue Mountains History Journal* now in its 4th year, Dr Peter Rickwood deserves considerable acclaim for the work he has done to promote interest in local history and heritage through this medium.

He has sought out and encouraged authors to publish refereed material in the *Journal* the result being a very high quality of papers.

Dr Rickwood in his editorial provides an interesting overview of the papers which have been published.

In this edition Peter writes: 'two papers deal with explorations of the Blue Mountains before the 1813 crossing, the bicentenary of which is being commemorated this year.

'Three papers have pioneering individuals as their subject, one each in relation to Blackheath, Medlow Bath and Lawson.

'The sixth paper focuses on the various ways by which the Nepean River has been crossed near



**Dr Peter Rickwood, editor the
*Blue Mountains History Journal***

Penrith - the main gateway to the Blue Mountains.

'The first two papers have been written by Andy Macqueen, and they deal with different aspects of George Caley's explorations.

'They are complementary to each other, the first focussing on Caley's obsession to find a route across the mountains and his regret that he did not achieve that before he left the colony.

'The second of Andy's papers relates to the curious names that Caley used for various features in the Blue Mountains; it not only reveals where some have become attached to features that Caley did not intend but it also deals with the possible origin of the names given to somewhat similar features in Yorkshire.

'In the third paper Ron Brasier has brought together much of his extensive research on Osborne Ladies' College that had its final chapter in Blackheath.

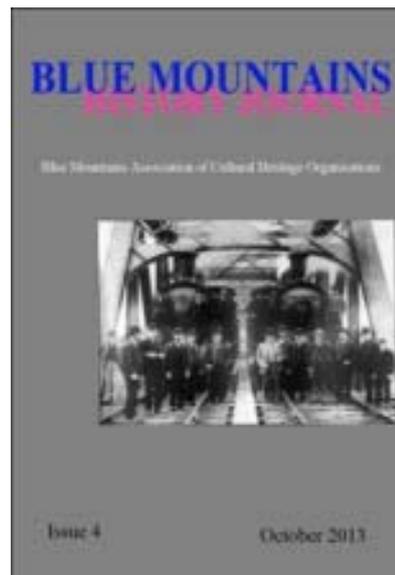
'But the principal, Miss Gibbins, commenced on a career in education up in Queensland and the sequence of schools that she started has been traced.

'Ron reveals many fascinating aspects of this enigmatic character and his paper is illustrated by a generous collection of photographs.

'Medlow Bath is one of the smallest of the villages of the Blue Mountains but it too has had its characters.

'The fourth paper discusses the life of one Cornwallis Wade-Browne who started out in a military career in England, became a stockman in Queensland and ended up settling in Medlow (as it was then called) and having a peripatetic life moving between a farm on what is now Water Board land and a holiday home in Bay View.

'Fifthly, Brian Fox has revealed what he has been able to find out about another pioneer of Lawson.



'In our first issue (2010) he tackled Joseph Hay and now it is Benjamin Roberts - both at one time being owners of large parcels of land in Lawson.

'The one feature that is common to all who have contributed to the history of the Blue Mountains is that at some time they, or their ancestors, had to cross the Nepean/Hawkesbury River by some means in order to gain access to the Blue Mountains.

'Patsy Moppett has researched this most important aspect of travel to the Blue Mountains and in the sixth paper she provides the chronology of the ways by which the Nepean River has been crossed near to Penrith.

'That location needs to be stated for the crossings of the Hawkesbury River near to Windsor and Richmond await another study.

'All of the papers in Issue 4 have been independently reviewed and revised as a consequence of suggestions.

'The final contribution is a short postscript by Christine Cramer who has been able to confirm some of the conclusions published in Issue 3 relating to the death of Professor V. Gordon Childe in 1957 and the bones discovered at the same site in 1959.'

Ray Christison wins coveted IMAGinE award



Ray Christison of Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park has won the coveted 2013 IMAGinE award for individual achievement and the award for the best exhibition – volunteers has gone to the Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park for its exhibit *Fire in the Mine*.

Pictured above is Ray Christison with wife, Jenny and Museums and Galleries chairman Oliver Frankel at the November presentation night in Sydney.

The recently developed multimedia exhibit titled *Fire in the Mine* explores the working lives of coalminers in the mid twentieth century and the horrific consequences of an underground fire that occurred in the State Coal Mine in 1953

The IMAGinE awards recognise the people who work in museums and galleries across NSW and the contributions they make.

IMAGinE celebrates all institutions—the big to the small—and pays homage to those organisations run by volunteers, with limited budgets and minimal resources.

M&G NSW first launched IMAGinE in 2008 in collaboration with Museums Australia (NSW & ACT)

and Regional & Public Galleries NSW.

Since then they have become our most popular event receiving around 70 nominations each year.

M&G NSW provides programs and services improving the visitor experience in small to medium museums, galleries and Aboriginal cultural centres across NSW.

BLUE MOUNTAINS HISTORY JOURNAL NOW AVAILABLE

Blue Mountains History Journal Issue 4, October 2013, can now be downloaded and viewed in .pdf on the BMACHO website <http://www.bluemountainsheritage.com.au/imagesDB/wysiwyg/BMHJ41Elec.pdf>

This issue, has once again been edited by Dr Peter Rickwood and designed by Peter Hughes and is also available in hard copy.

It is a large issue, over 100 pages on quality gloss paper and can be purchased for \$30, with postage extra. It cost almost \$30 to print, so BMACHO is not making a profit.

To purchase a copy, please email: The Secretary, BMACHO 1/19 Stypandra Place SPRINGWOOD NSW 2777 and it will be sent to you with an invoice.

Postage varies from post code to post code, so postage will be added to the invoice when it is paid at the Post Office. Alternatively it can be collected from Jan Koperberg at Springwood.

Wendy Hawkes to talk about the Cooks

THE LIVES of Sir Joseph Cook and Dame Mary Cook will be the topic for the guest speaker, Wendy Hawkes at a BMACHO general meeting to be held on Saturday, February 8. at the Paragon Restaurant., Katoomba.

Wendy Hawkes, is the cultural development officer with Lithgow City Council and curator at Eskbank House, Lithgow, where an exhibition about the Cooks was recently staged.

The Cooks moved to Lithgow in 1886 and Sir Joseph worked in the Vale of Clwydd Colliery as he studied and worked his way up through the unions and into politics. He became prime minister 27 years later.

A light lunch will be provided, in the Paragon at BMACHO expense), at approximately 12.30 pm

After lunch, from 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm (or earlier) a workshop will be conducted, where a suggested format for an "Explorers Cultural Trail" brochure will be presented.

Those attending the workshop will be asked for input into this project.

Please RSVP by email j.koperberg@bigpond.com or phone Jan Koperberg on 02 4751 5834

When: Saturday, February 8, 2014 from 10.30 am to 3.30 pm **Where:** Paragon Restaurant, Katoomba Street, Katoomba
Cost to participants: FREE

St Stephens Parish Kurrajong Registers 1861 - 1902

THE BOOK *St Stephens Church, Kurrajong Parish Registers 1861-1902* published by the Family History Group, Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society was recently released.

The publication is a transcription of the parish records of St Stephens Anglican Church, Kurrajong, incorporating St Philips Chapel of Ease at North Richmond (formerly called Enfield), St James Church of England at Kurrajong Heights and Salis Flats Mission Church, later called St John the Evangelist when moved to the corner of Single Ridge and Comleroy Roads. Salis Flats is often written as Sallys Flats and this area is now known as The Slopes.

The Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society Family History Group began the process of transcribing the records with the full co-operation of the present rector, the Reverend Shaun McGregor, and the group is indebted to him for his assistance.

The Family History Group realised immediately the significance of the information contained in the records which document the growth, character and early settlement patterns in the Kurrajong district as well as giving an indication of local industries and occupations.

Kurrajong was a farming community and the majority of the people gave their occupations as farmers and / or orchardists. Following these were labourers, drovers, brickmakers, sawyers, butchers, blacksmiths and saddler.

The registers also indicate a strong sense of place and belonging, and outline a history of families in the area.

In a scattered, relatively isolated farming community like Kurrajong it was not uncommon for boy to marry the girl next door because social contact mainly involved interaction with the neighbours. It was not uncommon for brothers to marry sisters from neighbouring farms. For all these reasons it was considered essential to document this information.



St Stephens Church, Kurrajong

The transcription, recording and compilation of the information contained in this publication entailed countless hours of volunteer work by members of the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society Family History Group.

Together with the actual records also included is a brief history of some of the early settlers to provide a better understanding of Kurrajong's past and its place in the history of the Hawkesbury.

The research team were Carolynne Cooper (team leader, Valerie Birch, Wanda Deacon, Kath McMahon-Nolf, Carol Roberts and Joy Shepherd.

The compilation and layout was done by Chris Upton, editor of the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society's newsletter *Millstones*.

The 180 pages book is priced at \$27 plus postage and packing of \$10 for postage and handling throughout

NSW, and \$14 for other states of Australia

For enquiries telephone (02) 4588 5867 and orders can be placed by contacting the secretary at PO Box 174 Kurmond 2757.

Paragon joins BMACHO

The Paragon Restaurant at Katoomba is another new member of BMACHO this month.

The Paragon first started by a Greek émigré in 1916 at the beginning of a new phenomenon in Australian country towns, the Greek café. From the early 1910s onwards a number of émigrés from Greece, often with experience of the United States, created a new café experience in cities and towns throughout Australia.

ANZAC Centenary grants available

LOUISE MARKUS MP, the Member for Macquarie has announced that applications are now open for the ANZAC Centenary grants program.

Mrs Markus said that for the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli landing the federal government is making available \$100 000 in funding allocated to each electorate in Australia to support projects in the community that mark the occasion.



Louise Markus, MP

These grants are a wonderful opportunity to honour the service and sacrifice of the servicemen and women.

Applications are open to:

- *community and ex-service organisations,
- * schools and education institutions,
- * museums and cultural institutions,
- * local government authorities,
- * other non-profit organisations.

Types of projects that are eligible under this program include:

- * public commemorative events,
- * new First World War memorials or honour boards,
- *the restoration of existing First World War memorials and honour boards,
- * the preservation, interpretation and display of First World War wartime and military memorabilia and artefacts.
- * relevant school projects, such as research with a focus on military involvement and social impacts, and the products of research.

Types of projects not eligible are:

- * expenditure already incurred or ongoing expenditure (eg annual maintenance of memorials),
- * construction and repair of buildings, including museums, memorial halls and sporting facilities,
- *recurring activities (events held every year),
- *salaries, travel and accommodation,
- *sporting events,
- *educational materials where projects by Department of Veteran Affairs already provides resources for schools.

Two public information sessions will be announced and held regarding the ANZAC Centenary grants program.

Guidelines for proposed projects and application forms can be accessed online at <http://www.anzaccentenary.gov.au/grants/>

Deadline for grants applications is March 30, 2014.

Applications may be submitted to louise.markus.mp@aph.gov.au or mailed to the ANZAC centenary grants program PO Box 855, Windsor 2756.



Australian and British soldiers take a welcome break before going up to the front line trenches in France during World War 1

"I look forward to receiving all applications and working with the community to deliver commemorations they will be proud of, that honour the centenary of our nation's service at Gallipoli," said Mrs Markus.

NEW HERITAGE NETWORK FORMED

THE NSW Heritage Network has recently been established with the objective of bringing heritage campaigners and community organisations together to share information, resources, experiences and skills to support local and state heritage campaigns.

Speaking at the recent launch at the State heritage listed property Linnwood House, Guildford, Ms Barbara Perry, Shadow Minister for Heritage said it had been the vision of Anne Field, Peter Duggan, Leesha Payor and June Bullivant, OAM "to grow an alliance of community groups, representing constituents across NSW with a common bond – advocating for heritage issues across the state."

Ms Perry said, "It is the NSW government's planning legislation which has forced community advocates to the fore. The planning legislation does not support heritage"

"The NSW government has put emphasis on economic growth and development; our built heritage is virtually ignored and it is the ongoing management of that which is at risk.

"The clock will be wound back to the days prior to the Heritage Act of 1977"

For further information: June M Bullivant OAM (02) 9631 0216 or 0438 31 0216

Utzon's Opera House

IT IS A RARE ARTIST who has not been inspired by the Sydney Opera House

The SH Ervin Gallery Sydney is presenting the exhibition Utzon's Opera House over the summer period, coinciding with the 40th anniversary of the opening of the Opera House in 1973 and to celebrate its significance for Australian visual artists.

The Sydney Opera House, designed by Danish architect Jørn Utzon is an architectural icon and one of the most outstanding buildings of the twentieth century.

Recognised in 2007 by UNESCO on the World Heritage List, it is appropriate that the National Trust celebrate this milestone of Australia's most remarkable building.

The inspiration for the exhibition has its genesis in the 2012 exhibition Australian Artists and the Sydney Opera House (curated by Lin Utzon) at the Utzon Center in Denmark which took the work of eight Sydney artists to Aalborg, the birthplace of Jørn Utzon.

The SH Ervin Gallery exhibition expands on this selection and include images of the indigenous figure Bennelong, after whom the peninsula it stands on is named, as well as works by some of Australia's leading artists including Eric Thake, William Dobell, Lloyd Rees, Brett Whiteley, John Olsen, Margaret Olley, Martin Sharp, Ken Done, Peter Kingston, Kevin Connor, Noel McKenna and Chris O'Doherty aka Reg Mombassa.

There will also be on display original drawings and working models by Utzon, which are held by the State Library of New South Wales. Works will be drawn from public and private collections across the country.

The exhibition which opened in late November, will run until January 19.

For further information www.nationaltrust.org.au/nsw



Sydney Opera House at sunset

LANDMARKS

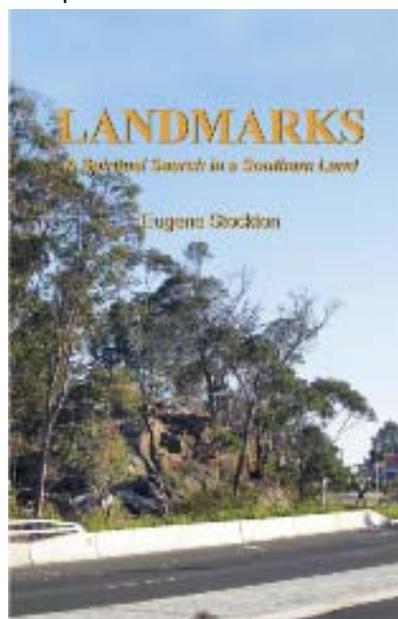
LAWSON PRIEST, researcher, author, and authority on the Australian Aboriginal culture, Father Eugene Stockton has recently published another book through the Blue Mountains Education and Research Trust.

Landmarks is an exploration of an Australian spirituality. Drawing on the cultural influences now in our land, it offers a graded, comprehensive presentation of gospel teachings, with an Australian diction and imagery.

The reader is introduced in terms of an "Australian setting", focusing on one particular aspect of the Australian experience.

The body of each chapter analyses that experience, exploring the parallels with its biblical counterpart.

The bible is used, not as a book of God or a store of normative texts, but as the story of people, who are our spiritual ancestors.



The attempt is made to insert ourselves into that story, with all its ups and downs, to identify our own experience in its unfolding, and through it to catch the vision of God which the past projects onto our present and future.

Blue Mountains Education and Research Trust a member of BMACHO was established to promote local research in religion and Aboriginal studies especially through the publication of findings.

Copies of *Landmarks* are available direct from the publisher at \$15 per copy plus postage.

For more information about this publication contact Eugene Stockton (02) 4759 1818.

BMACHO support for grant application

LETTERS OF SUPPORT have been provided by BMACHO several historical societies and individuals to Blue Mountains City Council in the bid of its library service to obtain a \$30 000 grant.

The grant application was to the Library Council of NSW.

If successful the grant would be used to complete the digitisation of all surviving Blue Mountains newspapers up to 1954; after which copyright becomes a problem.

Springwood Historian have already made a donation of \$5000 to the library to allow digitisation of local newspapers to start.

Rome's gigantic waste disposal site

MOST MODERN CITIES today have a major problem with waste disposal. But the problem has been around for a long time as archaeologists have found in Rome.

Monte Testaccio is an artificial mound in Rome composed almost entirely of fragments of broken amphorae dating from the time of the Roman Empire,

It is one of the largest spoil heaps found anywhere in the ancient world, covering an area of 20,000 square metres at its base and with a volume of approximately 580,000 cubic metres, containing the remains of an estimated 53 million amphorae in which some 6 billion litres of oil was imported mainly from Spain.

It has a circumference of nearly a kilometre and stands 35 metres high, though it was probably considerably higher in ancient times.

It stands a short distance away from the east bank of the River Tiber, near the Horrea Galbae where the state-controlled reserve of olive oil was stored in the late 2nd century AD.

The huge numbers of broken amphorae at Monte Testaccio illustrate the enormous demand for oil of imperial Rome, which was at the time the world's largest city with a population of at least one million people.

Monte Testaccio was not simply a haphazard waste dump; it was a highly organised and carefully engineered creation, presumably managed by a state administrative authority.

Excavations carried out in 1991 showed that the mound had been raised as a series of level terraces with retaining walls made of nearly intact amphorae filled with shards to anchor them in place

As the oldest parts of Monte Testaccio are at the bottom of the mound, it is difficult to say with any certainty when it was first created.

Deposits found by excavators have been dated to a period between approximately AD 140 to 250, but it is possible that dumping could have begun on the site as early as the 1st century BC.

The mound has a roughly triangular shape comprising two distinct platforms, the eastern side being the oldest.

At least four distinct series of terraces were built in a stepped arrangement. Layers of small shards were laid down in some places, possibly to serve as paths for those carrying out the waste disposal operations

REFERENCE: Monte Testaccio website by University de Roma "La Sapienza" and Universitat de Barcelona.

BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

REGISTERED OFFICE 1/19 Stypanra Place, Springwood, 2777 (02) 4751 5834 E-mail: committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au or j.koperberg@bigpond.com Website: www.bluemountainsheritage.com ABN53 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.

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

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 Mountain Education and Research Trust, Blue Mountains Historical Society Inc., Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc., Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute, 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, Lithgow and District Family History Society Inc., Lithgow Mining Museum Inc., Lithgow Regional Library – Local Studies, Lithgow Small Arms Factory Museum Inc, Mt Victoria and District Historical Society Inc., Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Historical Society Inc. (including Turkish Bath Museum), Mudgee Historical Society Inc., National Trust of Australia (NSW) - Blue Mountains Branch, National Trust of Australia (NSW) - Lithgow Branch, Nepean District Historical Society Inc., Paragon Restaurant - Katoomba, 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 Committe, Zig Zag Railway Co-op Ltd. The following are individual members: Ray Christison, Associate Professor Ian Jack, Joan Kent, John Leary OAM, John Low OAM, Ian Milliss, Patsy Moppett, Professor Barrie Reynolds, Dr Peter Rickwood and Dr Peter Stanbury OAM.

COMMITTEE The committee for 2013-14 is: John Leary, OAM (president), Ian Jack (vice president), Jan Koperberg (secretary), Kevin Frappell, Wendy Hawkes, Doug Knowles, Patsy Moppett, Dick Morony (public officer), Scott Pollock and Jean Winston.

DISCLAIMER Views and opinions expressed in **HERITAGE** originate from many sources and contributors. Every effort is taken to ensure accuracy of material. Content does not necessarily represent or reflect the views and opinions of BMACHO, its committee or members. If errors are found feedback is most welcome.