

Heritage

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Glenbrook-Lapstone Hill Railway Tunnel

One of the iconic industries of Glenbrook history has come to an end and the future of the site is under question. The heritage listed Lapstone railway tunnel on the Great Western Line, built in 1891 and opened on 18 December 1892, was last used by trains on 25 September 1913, and has been used to grow mushrooms. Then during WWII the tunnel was used to store poison mustard gas and chemical weapons for the war supply. In 1911 when the new deviation was opened it was proposed to continue using the tunnel, but the duplication of the line followed soon after and the old tunnel was left to decay. The structure is a 660m long single track tunnel, with a fascinating and long history, beyond its original purpose as a railway tunnel.



Western Portal in use

History

Construction of the deviation commenced in 1891, with a siding being built off the existing line for delivery of construction materials. The task was contracted to D Proudfoot, who then died suddenly prior to commencement. The contract was then given to George Proudfoot, and hundreds of men were employed digging the tunnel. Camps were established at each end of the work and the men and their families lived in their calico tents, through the heat and the cold. The tunnel construction required diverting a creek across the top of the tunnel near the eastern portal, and along a cutting to join another watercourse. No ventilation shaft was included as it was thought not necessary, and the new route was hailed as a vast improvement on the former line.

It passed beneath the ridge which carried the zig zag line and now the Great Western Highway, and it experienced difficulties from the start, hence its short life. It had a steep gradient, and water seepage keeping the rails wet, resulting in wheel slippage. The tunnel

had inadequate ventilation, meaning that rail workers and passengers experienced smoke, steam and coal grit. These issues, combined with the need to duplicate the line, eventually led to the construction of the Glenbrook Gorge route.



Lucasville platform 2010



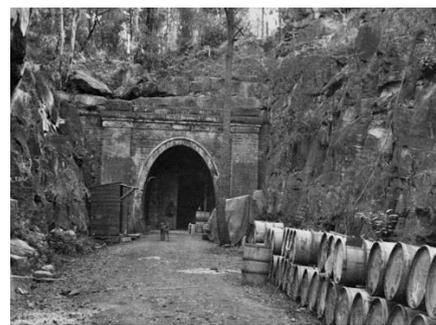
Fire's On - Streeton



Eastern cutting 2010

The tunnel was caught on canvas on a number of occasions at the time, including by Arthur Streeton, who was studying and painting the landscape.

Following the cessation of rail use, in 1913 the tunnel was leased. For almost 100 years since, it has been the home to a commercial mushroom farm, an important and productive local economic activity. The mushroom farm was originally installed in 1913 by Herbert Edward Rowe, an unemployed master builder, upon disuse of the tunnel by the rail network. Prior to this, Stan Breakspear had fenced off an area where he kept a bull. Rowe built his mushroom beds in most of the tunnel 3m wide and with a narrow path down one side for access and working space. Although Rowe renewed his lease in 1936, it was flagged that they may have to vacate the site in the event of war. Subsequently, the growing beds were removed in 1939-1942 for the RAAF's chemical storage. The beds were reinstated in 1945. The tunnel is one of a series of only four tunnels in NSW which were used for defensive purposes on home soil, for bulk chemical gas storage, to be prepared for any possible attack on Australia from chemical weapons. The RAAF's No. 1 Storage Reserve stored 500lb bombs in the tunnel, and then chemical weapons including mustard gas, establishing the storage facility on a concrete floor, and setting up a telephone system for security purposes.



Western end chemical storage

Disused tunnels were commonly used because of the lower fluctuations in temperature, protection from high temperatures and constant humidity. Caves were used in Malaya. In NSW tunnel storage facilities were also at Marrangaroo, Clarence and Picton, all supervised by Australia. In all there were 15 bulk chemical storage facilities established in Australia.

The headquarters for NSW were at Marrangaroo, which acted as a central depot for chemical and non chemical stocks as well as a replenishment centre for NSW.

The location of the tunnels placed them out of range of aircraft carriers and out of aerial view, protecting them from air attack.



Storage at Marrangaroo cutting



Marrangaroo cutting 2011



Marrangaroo tunnel 2011



Marrangaroo loading platform 2011

The Glenbrook tunnel was considered the most pleasant to work in by the gas workers. The camp comprised a store, carpenter's workshop, mess hut, sleeping huts and toilet blocks, transport section hut. The workers were sometimes called out to assist with fire fighting in the mountains. The testing and later disposal of the gas was a long held secret, the disposal taking place in the Newnes State Forest. Workers were not permitted to discuss their experiences of war on the home front, and the effects of the gas, for many years.



The RAAF Mustard Men



Western end camp

All tunnels were used for mushroom growing, but the Glenbrook tunnel has been the only remaining business, until recently. In 1992 the operator began growing mushrooms from overseas, exotic species not normally grown in Australia.

Construction

The tunnel is constructed internally of brick, with render in places. The western portal is located near the boundary of Knapsack Reserve. It is accessed via a track, through old sheds and outbuildings of the mushroom farm. The tunnel contains mushroom racks and associated reversible infrastructure. The eastern portal is located near Railway Reserve/Darkes Common and has limited accessibility, the portal itself being blocked off.



Storage at cutting, eastern end



Eastern portal 2008

The portals feature brick parabolic arches with a sandstone outer curve. The face brickwork of the surround is laid in English bond, and the arches are flanked by brick buttresses, with shorter sandstone retaining walls beyond.

Drainage ditches are located along both walls. Tracks have been removed and the concrete floor replaced the original ballast surface. Regularly spaced refuge niches are located along each internal wall.

Current state of play

Until recently the Glenbrook site was owned by the Railways and still leased by the mushroom company. The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has now taken possession of the site and the former mushroom farm lease has been terminated. The community, Council and the Environment Protection Authority, have raised concerns with regard to the condition of the site, due to vandalism and rubbish dumping, accumulation of compost and bush regrowth. The site is on the edge of the Blue Mountains National Park, and runs the risk of pollution of local waterways. The lessee had pledged to spend to remediate the site, and rearrange the logistics of operations to obtain more effective management and a healthier environment for workers. However, this did not occur.

DPI advise that their immediate focus will be to rehabilitate the areas outside the tunnel including removal of rubbish, and demolition of the dilapidated buildings which contain asbestos, to improve safety around the tunnel. The work would be undertaken in accordance with relevant approvals from Blue Mountains City Council, and subject to securing the necessary funding. DPI have indicated that they would like to work closely with the Springwood Historical Society in recognition of the historical significance of the tunnel. No decision has been made to date on any undertaking for a structural survey at this stage. DPI are interested to meet with stakeholders from the community for the future planning of the site.

With railway history and heritage as the key, the Springwood group, as well as the Glenbrook Historical Society and the Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Museum, are all keen to see ownership of the site transferred, and have suggested that BMCC acquire the tunnel site, and engage the community in determining the future of the site, undertaking the interpretation and presentation of transport history in the Mountains, with ideas including public walking access, interpretation of the layers of history and the carrying out of a structural survey.

BMACHO would agree that the tunnel is recognised as an integral part of the local transport history and heritage of the Blue Mountains. The site would require ongoing maintenance, along with other items in the BMCC LEP that form part of the Knapsack Reserve at the end of the former Great Western Highway ie. the Gatekeepers cottage, the John Whitton Memorial Monument, the Knapsack Viaduct, the Lapstone Zig Zag (including Lucasville Platform), to name a few. BMACHO has conveyed its thoughts in writing to the BMCC Mayor, Cr Mark Greenhill OAM.

Patsy Moppett

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Food for thought Editor's note

BMACHO Conference 2016 - Artefact

The 2016 Conference, held at the Victoria and Albert Guesthouse at Mount Victoria on 7 May, focussed on a theme of “Artefact”, that being objects and places which demonstrate past cultures, processes and features which are held by contemporary groups to conserve and learn from the past.

A number of notable speakers addressed the subject, with the keynote speaker being Associate Professor Ian Jack, Senior Fellow, St Andrew’s Collage, Sydney University, and BMACHO Vice-President. Ian spoke about the importance of the preservation of artefacts, intertwining this with the experiences and places of his childhood and youth in Scotland – a very personal and engaging presentation.

Rebecca Turnbull, Curator, Hawkesbury Regional Museum presented details from her current exhibition “Interesting Objects: 60 years of the Hawkesbury Historical Society Collection”. The address included the history of the Museum itself, in its relocation from what is now Howe House on Thompson’s Square, into a new purpose built Museum building construction by the Council, as well as how the exhibition was constructed. Members of the Society were asked to nominate their favourite item within the collection, and each item then became a part of the exhibition, together with interpretive information demonstrating its provenance and significance.

Ray Christison, Principal Consultant of Highground Consulting (Heritage and Architecture), and President of the City of Lithgow Mining Museum, told us about some the more bizarre implements and industry specific terms of the coal miner. This included tools and methods of lighting underground, and terminology relating to underground mine construction.



The captive audience

After the midday break, our attention was maintained with several short presentations on the same theme. Jean Winston, President of the Mount Victoria & District Historical Society, described the history and conservation of a patchwork quilt. Keith Ward, Publicity Manager of the Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum, described the fascinating restoration of a larger artefact, a railway carriage. Lois Sabine, Blue Mountains Historical Society, described the history and conservation of a knitted quilt. Doug Knowles, Glenbrook and District Historical Society, told of the incident of a train accident at Glenbrook/Lapstone, and the pocket watches presented to the two men who notified authorities of the incident. Joan Edwards then told of a former use of the conference venue as a boys' school, when a Sydney school temporarily relocated its students to Mount Victoria for safety during WWII.



Lois Sabine presents on a knitted quilt

The afternoon then continued with Dr Peter Rickwood, Visiting Senior Research Fellow, [Formerly of the Department of Geology, now the School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences (BEES)] University of New South Wales and Individual Member of BMACHO, described the history of Gardiners Inn at Blackheath - the first building and its various extensions over time, and the eventual demolition of the original inn, through to what we see today. Peter presented the building's keystone at the Conference, now in safe keeping with the Blue Mountains Historical Society.

Finally, Philip Hammon, Director of Scenic World Katoomba, and Treasurer of BMACHO, gave a presentation on the Bleichert ropeway, and the artefacts that have been stumbled upon in the bush around the site, and the proposals to undertake archaeological investigation to further interpret the former facility.

The Conference was attended by over 40 people who came away with an appreciation of the significance of artefacts in general, enhanced by the very personal presentations and

experiences of each speaker, together with vivid powerpoint and photographic displays, and hands on artefact appreciation. Each presentation dovetailed neatly into the next and the group's attention was held for the whole day.

BMACHO wishes to thank the speakers, attendees and the guesthouse managers for a wonderfully informative day, in a most suitable and well run venue.

Personally I would like to thank the BMACHO Committee for the considerable effort and time spent in organising this event, which made it the success as described above.

The BMACHO Conference is held every two years, and the Committee realises already that the recent Conference will be a hard act to follow in 2018.

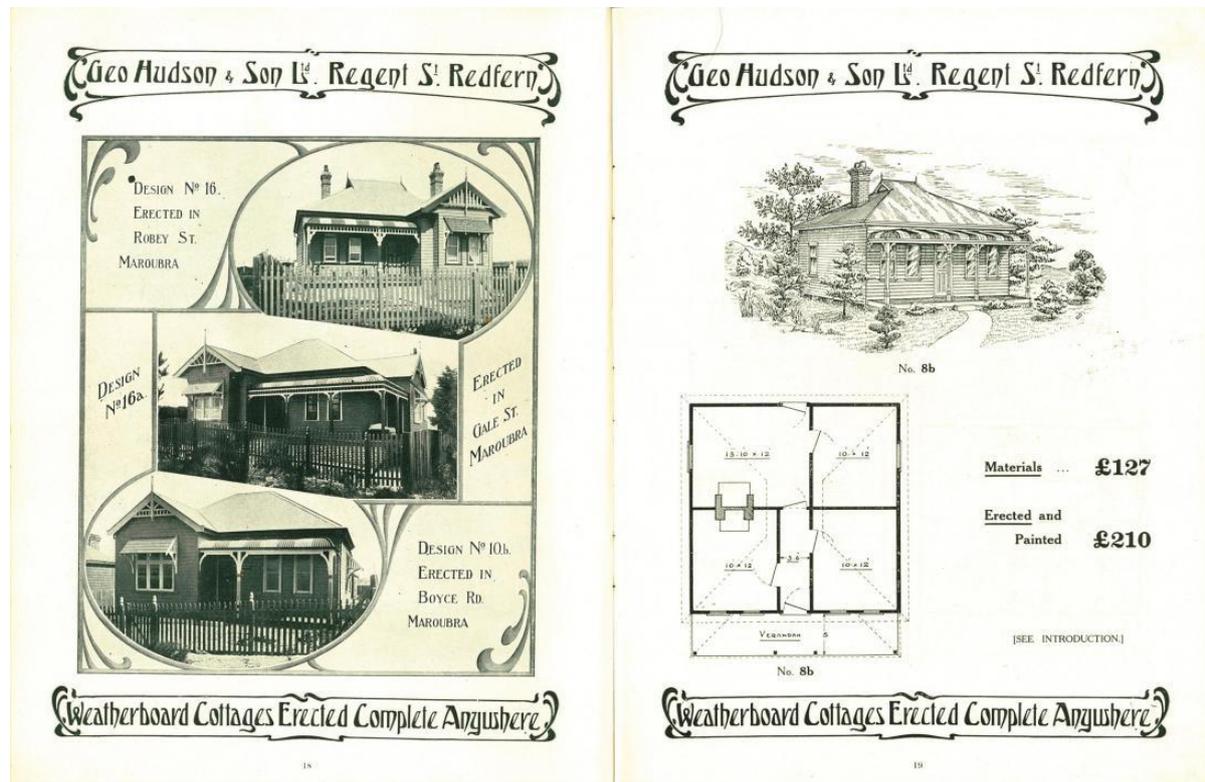
Patsy Moppett

Prefabricated & Kit Homes

We tend to think of kit homes and prefabricated buildings as a thing of the late 20th Century. However, they have been around for well over 150 years. As early as the 1830s a small number of prefabricated timber cottages were in use. They did not require a high level of skill to assemble and were suitable for remote areas. By the late 1800s joinery factories often replaced onsite carpenters or carpenters in their small workshops, producing in bulk the various elements of the building. Some companies then took the next step and provided complete timber cottage kits. Assembly was undertaken as much as practicable at the mill along factory lines of production.

The homes and other buildings were traditionally timber, which was amenable to prefabrication and powered technology. From the 1850's the gang-saw was in use, which could cut logs into boards in a single pass. Later the development of moulding machines led to boards with inter-locking weather proof features.

Eventually standardisation of size and design was introduced, as well as timber framed construction. This allowed for mill fabrication and on-site assembly.



Hudson catalogue extract – late 1800s

There were companies in North America who manufactured these timber framed buildings, but by 1900 a number of local companies were operating in Australia. The 1900s saw factory made timber cottages as a popular and affordable form of housing in both rural and urban areas.

Two pioneers in Australia were the Hudson family, and John Hay Goodlet of Goodlet & Smith in Sydney, a supplier of building materials.

William Henry Hudson was a carpenter who emigrated to Australia in 1846. He established a joinery firm in Redfern around 1855, which expanded to an engineering enterprise in the 1870s, relocating to Clyde. By 1874 Hudson Brothers was producing “portable houses” for rural areas, as well as New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. Each piece of timber was coded for placement for the convenience of unskilled labour on site. At Redfern the business was producing 500 pairs of sash windows and 200 doors per week.

The economies of scale established enabled costs to be reduced, and in about 1900 they began producing prefabricated timber homes. For much of the 20th Century they were a popular and affordable form of housing, and other prefabricated buildings.

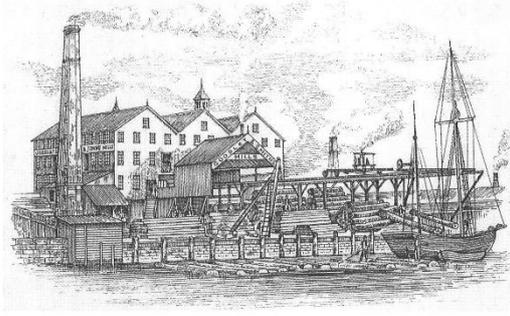
George Hudson, William’s son, took control of the joinery business in 1905, which then became known as George Hudson & Son Ltd.

From 1917 Hudson’s established displays at the Royal Easter Show. Catalogues of their work demonstrate a remarkable record of architecture of the time, and show the company’s importance in adopting and promoting contemporary design trends. The business had moved to Glebe in 1908, and by the 1920s had an extensive range of portable or ready-made timber homes.

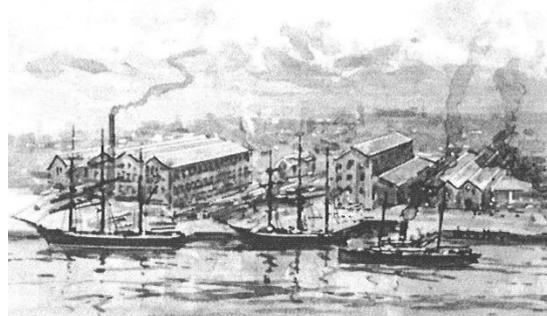
The peak of their success was in the 1950s, when many owner builders saw the attraction of the simplified construction methods. At this time the houses were displayed in Grace Bros department stores.

George Hudson Homes (as the company was known by 1959) continued to produce kit into the 1970s. The homes were used throughout urban areas, as well as rural areas and as holiday homes, and as post war accommodation.

John Hay Goodlet was a successful entrepreneur, philanthropist, timber merchant and manufacturer, who made his fortune by selling building materials. He owned Canterbury House (demolished 1929) from 1876, to which he made extensive alterations in the 1880s, designed by Edmund Blakett’s son. The area in this vicinity and in the Cooks River Valley was renowned for obtaining timber for Sydney for split timber, shingles, firewood and charcoal.



Goodlet & Smith wharf & mill at Darling Harbour

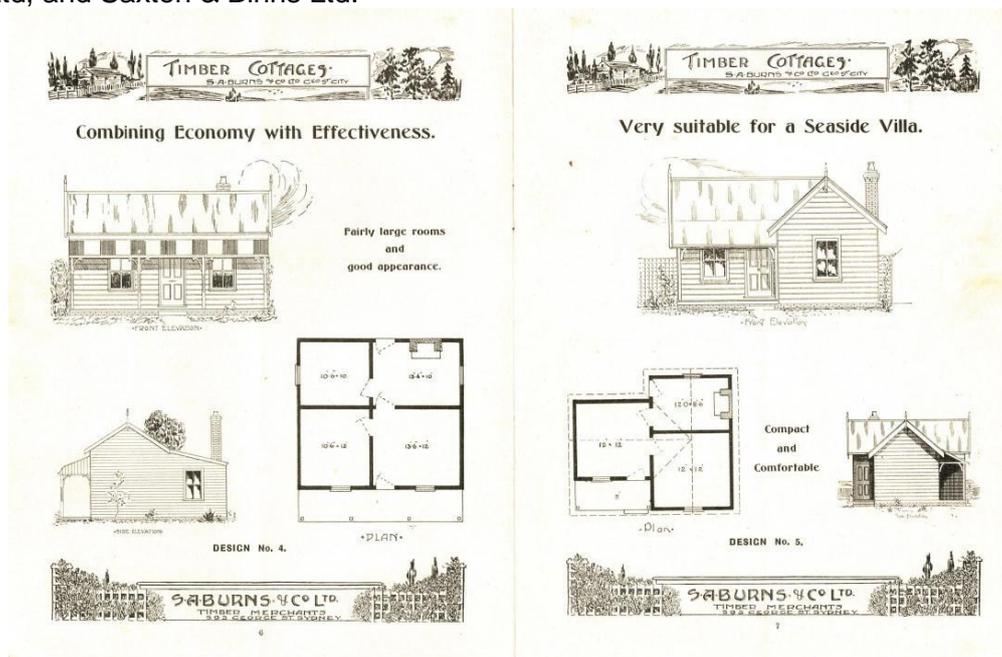


G & S Victoria Steam Saw Mills, Pyrmont

Goodlet was born in Leith, Scotland in 1835, coming out to Australia in 1852 to Melbourne. He found work with fellow Scots, Charles and John Smith, who were timber merchants, becoming a partner within a year. He moved to Sydney in 1855 and established a timber yard and sawmill. The business did well and in the late 1860s he entered into a partnership with James Smith, brother of his former employers. They became Goodlet & Smith. Although they diversified into bricks, pottery and earthenware, their main line was timber. A large mill was opened in 1872 at Murray Street, Pyrmont, and then moved to Harris Street, where it operated until 1927. They also maintained sawmills at Ulladulla and Cape Hawke, and ran a fleet of ships.

Goodlet was a prominent citizen in Ashfield and in what is now known as Ashbury (a name coined from being located between Ashfield and Canterbury), and also the Presbyterian Church. Amongst other things within a distinguished life, he was a trustee of Coerwul Academy near Lithgow. Goodlet died in 1914.

Other companies who undertook the manufacture of prefabricated kit homes included Burns & Co Ltd, and Saxton & Binns Ltd.



Burns & Co Ltd



Saxton & Binns Ltd

Examples of prefabricated buildings

Some examples of these prefabricated and kit homes and other buildings are heritage listed, but there are many more located across the country, and not just in suburban areas, that are not acknowledged or recognised as such.

Some significant examples include:

- The St James Church of England building at Yerranderie, erected by Rev Reg Smee in 1910, long dismantled. (Hudson).
- The prefabricated hut used by Mawson's Antarctic expedition of 1911, still in use. (Hudson).
- Two former display homes from 1955 at the corner of Kitchener Street and Mona vale Road, St Ives, still in use. (Hudson).

- Timber cottages erected at Eurama, Falconbridge, being “Alphington”, “Numantia” & “Metchley”. The “Alphington” dwelling was relocated to Falconbridge in 1921, and is now known as “Danville”. (Hudson).
- Cottage “Wallenbeen” at Cudal, early 1900s (American kit).
- Homestead in the Hartley Valley 1900. (Hudson)
- Post war accommodation.

Patsy Moppett

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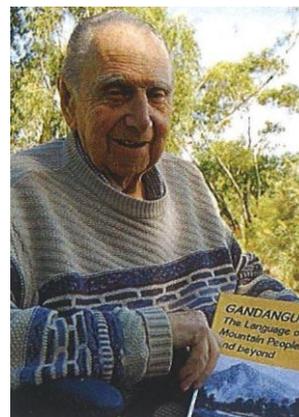
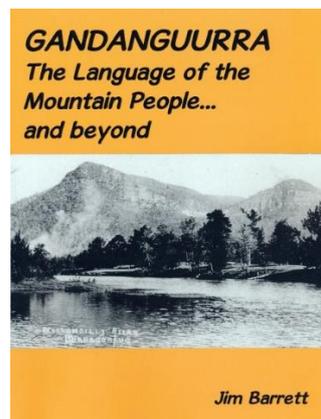
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Book Launch – Gandanguurra – The Language of the Mountain People ... and beyond

The most recent book by Jim Barrett was launched at Lawson on 14 May 2016 by Mike Jackson, with the Welcome to Country given by Auntie Sharyn Halls. Mike introduced Jim and gave some detail about Jim and his background, justifying his authority to undertake the writing. He believes that Jim’s book is “an overarching synthesis of all the known written sources of the Gandanguurra language..... This book is for all of us who wish to know an Australian language and Jim says as such at the start. I believe we should all know an Australian language, an Aboriginal language and what better place to start than the place we live. Whether you want to delve into the grammar of the Gandanguurra language, or just know a bit more of local history, learn about traditional place names and Gandanguurra cultural landscapes, attempt to speak the language fluently, or understand just a few Gandanguurra words, Jim’s book has something to offer everyone. I feel that he deserves an honorary PhD for this work and that people for centuries to come, both Gandanguurra and others, will be deriving value from the work – for it truly has been a labour of love.”



Jim Barrett launches his book

Introducing the book, Jim provided the following background:

“How did I come to be interested in writing a book on an Aboriginal language? I am often asked {this}. It really started almost 70 years ago when I took up bushwalking in the Blue Mountains, and a very special area there was the Burratorang Valley and its hinterland, only about 15 km southwest of Katoomba.

The Burratorang was first settled by non-Aborigines in the 1820s, almost primarily by ex-convicts. In more recent times (the 1990s) I began writing books about the history of the Blue Mountains including the Burratorang Valley. Two very important books (in 1994 and

1995) were 'Life in the Burratorang' and 'Place Names of the Blue Mountains and Burratorang Valley'.

During the two years of writing these two books I began to realise that in the 1800s another significant group also had formed a strong presence in the Burratorang, namely, descendants of the Gandanguorra people. Following are a few cases of very, very close associations between the white newcomers and the resident Aborigines whose ancestors had been in the area for some thousands of years. These examples illustrate a strong bond between the ex-convicts and other settlers, and the Aboriginal people, strikingly different to the story of how Aboriginal people were treated in other parts of NSW and in other states of Australia.

- Thomas Seymour discovered Kanangra Walls in 1864: his route took him past the Jingery camp site on the Kowmung River. Thomas's grand-daughter told me that Thomas had a working knowledge of the Gandanguorra language, almost certainly learnt from the Jingery people. He had also prepared a summary of the language in an exercise book, which sadly has been mislaid.
- Jimmy Pippin was a blood brother to his local tribe, and was protector of the "red hand rock" in Upper Burratorang, a great responsibility... To become a 'blood brother' was a rarity indeed.
- Peter Fitzpatrick was said to be as good as a native, for he also knew the Gandanguorra language and could use a spear and boomerang as well as any Aborigine. The local Aborigines called him Burrung gullut. (quite an honour!)
- In July 1875, John Jingery "an Aboriginal native", applied to buy a 40 acre block on Scotts Main Range through his 'agent' – Robert O'Reilly. Robert ran cattle on the Lower Cox. The Burratorang Aborigines showed their gratitude by showing Mr O'Reilly a short cut for him in taking his cattle from the Lower Cox to the Upper Cox. About 80 kms.
- In pre-dam days (the Burratorang was flooded in 1960 for the Warragamba Dam) there was a 'red hand rock' a couple of kilometres up the river from Bimlow. Mr Maurice Hayes knew the rock for 50 years. The Aborigines eventually gave him to understand that "the hands were the imprints of those of their deity, when they were on earth".
- Mrs Longbottom was an Aboriginal woman, with some reputation as a midwife and who smoked a clay pipe, and accepted the remuneration for her services in the form of plug tobacco. She assisted birthing women, not only of her own race but also European women, using some of her tribal medicine and practices.
- In 1929 Fathers Keith Bush and Steve Ford, as seminarians, walked from Wentworth Falls to Picton. On the way they came across a camp of Aborigines in the Burratorang Valley, on Cox's River, near the Wollondilly junction. (This spot would have been very close to the farming settlements of the white newcomers).

Those years - the 1800s - were a period in which terrible injustices were wrought on Aboriginal communities in other parts of NSW, but I have demonstrated that the Burratorang Valley was a shining example of an opposite situation.

Another reason for writing the book is set out in the dedication page of my book:

"With great humility and much affection I dedicate these pages to the original inhabitants of the Blue Mountains and to their descendants, but especially Margaret Jordan, a Billy Lynch (Cox's River) descendant, and Ivy Brookman – nee Riley, a George Riley (Burratorang) descendant, who many years ago encouraged me to put on paper the story of their beautiful language.

Following publication of this book it is my hope to complete a simple text book containing an elementary grammar suitable for those who would be interested in acquiring basic conversational skills in the language."

In closing..... I am fairly confident that my work is grammatically correct, but if anyone thinks otherwise, I would appreciate being advised. Also, a difficult job for me was to work

out the western boundary of the Gandanguorra territory, and in this regard, some readers might have other opinions. If so, I would be grateful to learn of same.”

This book is a publication about the language of the Gandanguorra people of the southern Blue Mountains, which stretches from the Mountains between Bells Line of Road in the north and Goulburn in the south, from the Nepean River in the east to the Abercrombie River catchment in the west. The heart of the area is the flooded Burragorang Valley, under the waters of the Warragamba Dam.

The book describes how the language was one of many encountered by early European settlers, and how the Aboriginal people even created words to describe the white man’s world.

In the Blue Mountains Review, Andy Macqueen describes the publication as “...the result of vast amounts of analysis and thought, fired by his love of that country..... hefty doses of obsession and endurance, for he’s been working on the project for many years”.

The book is available for about \$25.00 from Megalong Books and other Blue Mountains bookshops, and the Blue Mountain Education and Research Trust. *Patsy Moppett*

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Blue Mountain Education and Research Trust

The Technical Side

The Hedgerow

Within a heritage garden or a rural landscape one can occasionally encounter a hedge or a hedgerow. These are linear strips of planted and trained shrubs or trees that typically surround fields and help form property boundaries. Nature can play a big part in shaping the rural hedgerows we have today, making them almost a semi-natural habitat of considerable value. It is a simple form of what we know today as topiary, or coppicing.

They are often made of woody species, such as elder, crab apple, hawthorn, privet, cherry laurel, Leylandii, blackberry, beech, oak, ash, willow and elm. Some ancient hedges are simply strips of trees or shrubs that have not been cleared when the land was developed.

They are recognised as part of cultural heritage and historical records, and also as they contain significant habitat for wildlife, and shelter for ground species of flora. They can reduce soil loss, reduce pollution, regulate water supply, and be a source of firewood.

Ancient hedges across Britain could also be comprised of holly or sycamore.

Different styles evolved depending upon climate, farming practices and the trees/shrubs suited to each region, and of course the purpose of the hedge, eg. sheep or cattle containment.



Hedges new and old

In Australia, many abandoned mining communities can be identified by the vegetation which remains, and this often includes privet, hawthorn or crab apple hedges/hedgerows. They define town, property and paddock boundaries and were often used to actually replace

fences. A properly constructed hedgerow could contain stock quite successfully, and a diversity of species within the hedge is best for ensuring longevity and attracting biodiversity. In Australia, and in the Central West of NSW, at Hill End and Sofala they can be seen defining paddocks and lanes, and at Millthorpe along roadside fence boundaries. In the Australian climate however, the usual shrub or tree chosen can sometimes be one favoured by birds for their berries, and as the seed is spread the plant species can become quite invasive. For this reason, some species like privet can be declared noxious in areas of Australia.

History: Hedge laying was, and is, a country skill practised in the UK and Ireland, which often provides a living link with past ages, and livestock-proof barriers. Rejuvenation of existing hedgerows by encouraging them to put on new growth, helps to improve their overall structure and strength, provides weather protection for crops and wildlife, and provides aesthetically pleasing screens to fields and gardens.

The first hedges enclosed crops during the Neolithic Age (4,000 to 6,000 years ago), where hand cultivation took place. The Bronze and Iron Ages also saw it used, and then again in Medieval fields right through the industrial boom of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Some hedgerows separating fields from lanes in the UK are said to have been there for some 700 years. The meaning of the word “hedge” goes back to the Old English to mean “enclosure”. The process was identified by Caesar in 57BC, and was in use during the reign of William the Conqueror.

Hedges were often built (planted) on an earth parapet or mound (a Devon hedge). A Cornish hedge was planted on an earth bank reinforced with stones. Where they were set directly into the ground, they were more often known as quickset hedges. Midland hedges were to contain bullocks, and Derbyshire hedges were for mixed farming. Other hedges varied according to the techniques used, such as Lancashire, Westmoreland, Montgomery and Brecon styles, where double staking was used.

In particular, the Isle of Wight style is almost extinct. It is an untidy but effective stockproof barrier, and is quick and easy to lay successfully. Pleachers are simply laid down one on top of the other, usually in alternating directions, with little of the brash removed, and then pegged down with crooked hazel stakes. (See below for terminology).

In the UK, the National Hedgelaying Society has been established, where many professionals and amateurs operate under an accreditation scheme and organised local and national hedgelaying competitions. They also work at hedgerow restoration across the country.

Outside of the UK, hedgelaying is still practised in the Netherlands, Germany, Australia, where British emigrants took their skills with them.

The theory and the practice: The theory behind hedge laying is easy but the practice requires skill, experience, suitable climatic conditions and patience. The aim is to reduce the thickness of the upright stems of the hedgerow trees by cutting the wood away on one side of the stem and in line with the course of the hedge. Then, each remaining stem is laid down towards the horizontal, along the length of the hedge.



Techniques for laying a hedgerow

Put simply, you would cut most of the way through the stem of each plant near the base, bend it over and interweave it between wooden stakes. This encourages new growth from the base, which is then also woven in when long enough, or trimmed off for fire wood.



Hedgerow under development

They require regular maintenance and trimming to remain thick, bushy and vigorous, and to prevent gaps forming, growing too tall and thin. Hedgelaying is usually performed in late autumn or winter while the sap is down. Relaying of the hedge should take place every 20-50 years, which if undertaken, can make a hedge last indefinitely.

The language of the hedgelayer is quite specific, as follows:

- Billhook – a hedgelayer’s pruning knife.
- Pleacher – the remaining branch left after trimming, which is lain towards the horizontal, along the course of the hedge.
- Brush or brash – the smaller shoots that are trimmed off, pushed to the far side, or woven in.
- Runners or binders – hazelwood shoots woven between the stakes at intervals along the hedge to give the finished hedge its final strength.
- Snedding – cutting away the front and side shoots from the branch to be laid.
- Hether – a top binding, woven along the top of the stakes to keep the hedge connected and strong.
- Dannocks – leather gauntlets worn by hedgelayers.

Patsy Moppett

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Wikipedia

www.inspirationgreen.com

www.theguardian.com

Community events & updates

Blue Mountains Landscapes – Day Fine Art

On 2 July 2016, BMACHO member Day Fine Art will be exhibiting a collection of 19th and 20th century works of art that depict the landscape of the Blue Mountains, at their gallery at 27-29 Govetts Leap Road, Blackheath. The exhibition will feature a major historical painting

of the Grose Valley in Blackheath by colonial artist James Howe Carse. Painted in 1876, this work is a fantastic piece of Australian culture.



Grose Valley – James Howe Carse 1876

A collection of Albumen photographs of the Blue Mountains dated from 1870-90 will also be on show, along with a collection of watercolours relevant to the area. This is a historically significant collection, well worth viewing.

Hours: 10am to 5pm, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Other times are by appointment.

Information: info@dayfineart.com

Paragon Cafe to Celebrate 100 years

This renowned establishment is set to celebrate its 100th anniversary this year, in September 2016. It was established by Zach and Mary Simos, and is a prime example of the classic Greek café with an associated migration story.



The Friends of the Paragon recently set up a display of original artefacts and curiosities from the Café at Katoomba Library. A brochure outlining the history of the building and the chocolate making business was available at the exhibition. The display runs through June, and the brochure can still be obtained at the Library and the Café.

Recently the Café welcomed local school students to give them a hands-on experience of the past. As part of the history element of the current primary school syllabus, the children are taken to buildings and sites of special historical significance to show them why these places are important to the community, and why it is important to look after them.

To mark the Centenary, the Friends are compiling a glossy coffee table book on the café's history, funded by crowd funding.

Patsy Moppett

See www.pozible.com/project/203964

References:

Blue Mountains Gazette, 27 April 2016

William Cox Historical Festival and Open Day 2016

This year's William Cox Historical Festival and Open Day is to be held at the Arms of Australia Inn Museum on Sunday July 17.

As in previous years, the Festival will have a host of activities for young and old – including the NSW Corps of Marines re-enactments, old fashioned school room, horse drawn wagon rides, Light Horse Regiment, animals and pony rides, merry-go-round and jumping castle, music, plus plenty of stalls and food.



Festivities from 2015

The Australia Inn Museum is located on the corner of the Great Western Highway and Gardenia Avenue, Emu Plains. The festivities will be held from 9am to 3pm, and admission is free.

For more information contact:

Rosemary Weaver 4751 6975 or 0408 416 735

or the Museum on opening days 4735 4394

Email: info@armsofaustraliainn.org.au

Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan 2015 – R6 Residential Character Zone

Further to the article in the BMACHO article in the March-April issue, an update is provided on the progress of the development of a new R6 Residential Character Zone. The zone is designed to specifically protect and conserve the nature of residential landscapes of the Blue Mountains, that being character housing on large allotments with traditional gardens.

The adoption of the zone was deferred for further consideration by Council and the NSW Department of Planning & Environment.

Carolyn Williams of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society has provided an update on the process. Following the decision to proceed at Council's Meeting of 29 March 2015, Council has now submitted a Planning Proposal (PP) to the Greater Sydney Commission for consideration, to add the R6 zone to the BMLEP2015. Initial acceptance of the PP by the Commission will lead to the public exhibition process, and enable the community to show support for the zone.

The Council's decision and the PP can be viewed on Council's website, where the exhibition period dates will also be announced.

Patsy Moppett

Glenbrook Park Plan of Management

As reported in the May-June issue of the BMACHO Newsletter, Council is currently considering formulation of a Plan of Management and Master Plan for Glenbrook Park. BMACHO indicated that the draft documents were scheduled to go to the Council Meeting of 24 May 2016 for endorsement.



Glenbrook Park

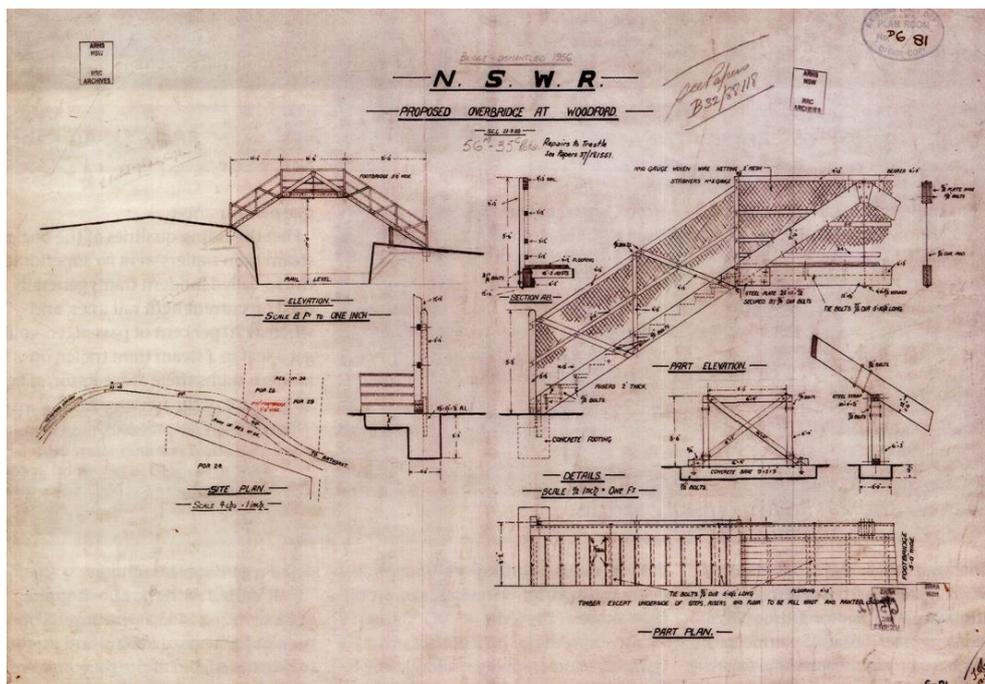
Council's Principal Landscape Architect Elizabeth Dudley-Bestow advises that now local government elections have been announced, Council has determined that any major decisions about the Park should be made by the incoming Council. Therefore, the exhibition of the draft documents will occur after the election.

BMACHO will provide further information as it comes to hand. However, any details will also be available on Council's website.

Patsy Moppett

Woodford Footbridge – further notes

BMACHO presented some history of this site and recent attempts to have the footbridge removed, in the Special Edition Newsletter #2, March 2016. Now, Elizabeth Burgess, Woodford Academy, provides information sourced from the March issue of Australian Railway History, that other footbridges at Coerwul and Hazelbrook were of a similar design to that at Woodford. Original drawings for the Woodford footbridge are included, dated May 1920. The article suggests that the footbridge was probably built in about 1923. However, we now know that the bridge was in existence in 1920 as photographic evidence shows. It is noted that the original bridge was dismantled in 1956, when the current footbridge was built. Blue Mountains City Council considered the matter again at its Meeting at the end of March,



NSW Railways drawings of the Woodford footbridge c. 1927

resolved to write to Andrew Constance, Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, to raise concern for the demolition. Council would draw the Minister's attention to the road authority's desire in 2014 to retain the bridge. Council also would like to further assess the historical significance of the bridge, with a view to have it included in the Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan 2015, Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage.

It was noted that although there is pedestrian access over the railway line at Park Road and an underpass at the Woodford Railway Station, the removal of the footbridge would add more than a kilometre of additional walking to residents' walking routes.

Elizabeth Burgess also pays tribute to Kate O'Neill, Blue Mountains historian, for unearthing a superb article in the Blue Mountains Echo dated December 1920, which describes the official opening of the footbridge. Apparently funding was raised by the community and presented to the Railway Commissioner to build the bridge. It was acknowledged even then that the footbridge was "neither a work of art nor a thing of beauty", but was very serviceable.

The need for a footbridge was obviously of extreme importance to the community, who felt strongly enough to raise the money themselves, and celebrate its opening in grand style. It would appear that community feelings have not diminished over time, and the footbridge we see today remains an integral part of pedestrian access across the railway line, Wilsons Glen access and access from one side of the village to the other. *Patsy Moppett*

References:

Australian Railway History, March 2016

Blue Mountains Gazette, 6 April 2016

Blue Mountains echo 3 December 1920

Successful Hartley Tour

"*Steeped in History, Surrounded by Nature*" reads the Lithgow Tourism Information website. Recently, a fascinating bus tour by the Lithgow Branch of the National Trust NSW lead us to discover just how much history there is, partly hidden but accessible, in Lithgow and surrounds, as part of the 2016 Heritage Festival.

Lithgow Mayor Marie Statham joined the group for lunch, along with some descendants of original Hartley settlers.

The tour group viewed the valley from Hassans Walls' newly accessible lookout, the highest in the Blue Mountains. From there they descended into the scenic Hartley Valley to rediscover historic buildings, many having been built between 1820 and 1850 and listed in the State Heritage Register. They followed original roads, saw the inns where Cobb and Co changed horses, and heard the stories of the enterprising freed convicts and soldier settlers who profited by opening inns to receive weary travellers after the hazardous journey over the Mountains.



Brian Wright & daughter, Collits descendants



Ramsay Moody explains the cider press

An original cider press was revealed in the bush from the days when the valleys were thick with orchards. Graves of first settlers, innkeepers and soldiers were visited and a

home cooked lunch was served amongst the autumn colours of an old Sorensen garden at Forty Bends Farm.



Mayor Marie Statham, Joanna Bailey & Merle Gill



Lunch at Forty Bends with Brendan & Sarah Childs

Due to popular demand the Lithgow Branch of the National Trust has organized another tour with variations on the theme, thanks to the kind support of Hartley property owners. "Heritage Treasures of the Hartley Valley in Spring" tour will be on Saturday, September 17th 2016. Spring flowers will be in bloom so those staying overnight could make a weekend of it and view the daffodils at Historic Rydal on the Sunday.

Contact Lithgow Branch of the National Trust:

Jan Pennington: email lithgow.nt@gmail.com to express your interest in the next National Trust 'Heritage Treasures Tour'.

Celia Ravesi

Valley Heights Railmotor Tours

Valley Heights Locomotive Heritage Museum, in conjunction with State Mine Railway & Lachlan Valley Railway are opening on Sunday 17th July 2016 to host railmotor tours from Lithgow and Penrith. This is probably the first time that tours of this nature have been run into Valley Heights and they invite patrons from the Lithgow, Katoomba and Penrith areas to participate in this rare opportunity.

RAILMOTOR TO VALLEY HEIGHTS MUSEUM

SUNDAY 17TH JULY 2016

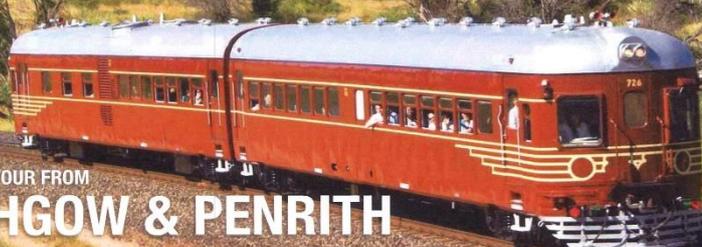




RETURN TOUR FROM

LITHGOW & PENRITH

Photo Courtesy of
Natalie Bayliss



FROM LITHGOW

Lithgow depart 8.45am return 6.15pm
Katoomba depart 9.35am return 5.15pm

Return Fares Adult \$55 | Child \$45
includes entry into museum and rides on steam tramway

book online at stateminerailway.com.au

Enjoy a great day out at Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum!

Ride the 2km of steam tramway and enjoy the fabulous exhibits including the 57 class loco and fully restored "Caves Express" RBR carriage. Sausage sizzle and cafeteria available on site.

FROM PENRITH

Depart 12.00pm Return 3.00pm

Return Fares Adult \$35 | Child \$25
includes entry into museum and rides on steam tramway

book online at www.lvr.com.au

Enjoy a great day out at Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum. Ride the 2km of steam tramway and enjoy the fabulous exhibits including the 57 class loco and fully restored "Caves Express" RBR carriage. A sausage sizzle and cafeteria will be available on site.

From Lithgow end: Departs Lithgow at 8.45am, return 6.15pm. Departs from Katoomba at 9.35am and returns at 5.15pm. Return fares are: Adult \$55.00, Child \$45.00.

Book online at www.stateminerailway.com.au

From Penrith end: Departs Penrith at 12.00 noon, and returns at 3pm. Return fares are: Adult \$35.00, Child \$25.00.

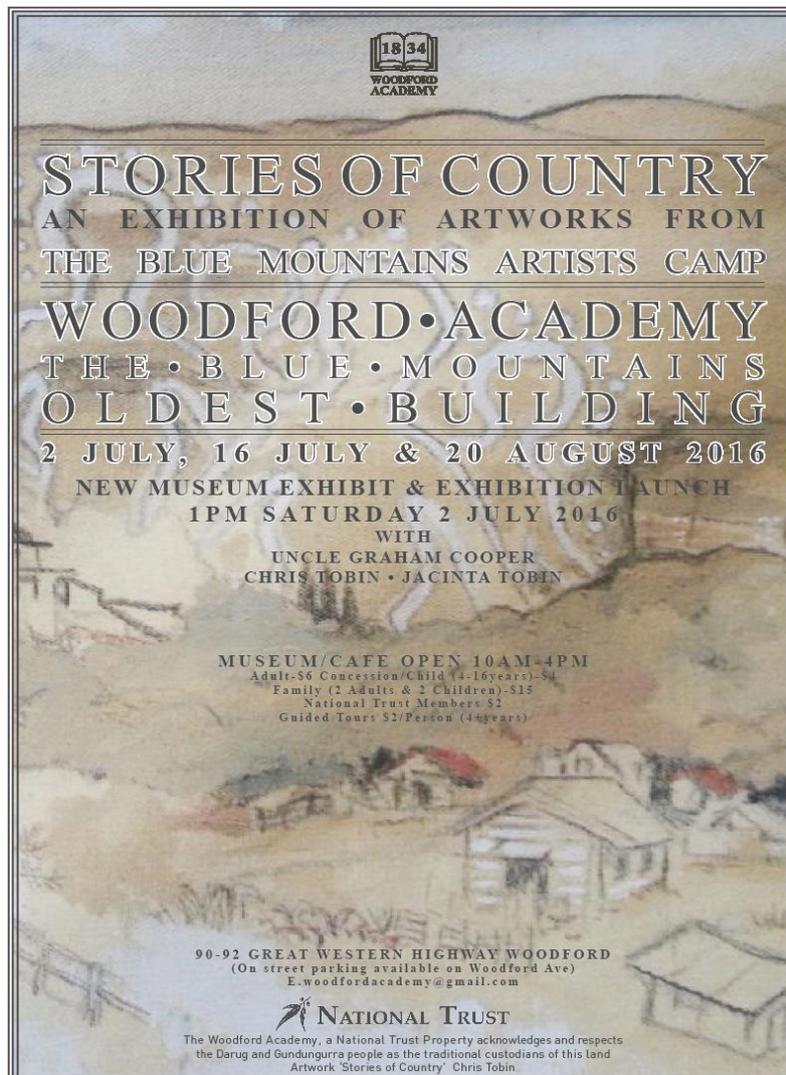
Book online at www.lvr.com.au

These fares include entry into the museum and rides on the steam railway. *Keith Ward*

Exhibition and Stories of Country – Blue Mountains Artists’ Camp

On Saturday 2 July 2016 the Woodford Academy, 90-92 Great Western Highway, Woodford, is honored to officially open a permanent museum exhibit that provides an important Aboriginal perspective of local heritage and culture within the Blue Mountains’ oldest building. The museum exhibit will feature original artworks by Darug man Chris Tobin and an original musical composition by Jacinta Tobin.

Join Uncle Graeme Cooper, Jacinta Tobin, Chris Tobin, and representatives from the National Trust and the Woodford Academy as they reflect on a shared walk in telling stories together for all of their futures.



The launch will be accompanied by an exhibition “***Stories of Country***” featuring artworks from The Blue Mountains Artists’ Camp, including works by Ben Croser, Lexodious Dadd, Teekee Marloo, Janelle Randall-Court, Nathan Summers, Chris Tobin, Leanne Tobin and David Yanandirra.

The exhibition dates are 2 July, 16 July and 20 August 2016. The Museum/Cafe is open from 10am to 4pm.

Entry: Adults \$6, Concession/Child (4-16 yrs) \$4, Family \$15 (2 adults, 2 children), National Trust members \$2. Guided tours are \$2/person (4 yrs and over). *Elizabeth Burgess*

Information email: woodfordacademy@gmail.com

A different perspective – successful women of the colony

Some of the most intriguing and influential women at the heart of Sydney's colonial economy have been all but written-out of the history books. In a fascinating talk offered by Blue Mountains Library and *The Turning Page Bookshop*, author Catherine Bishop will expose the double-lives, secrets, scandals and successes of the many extraordinary women whose efforts, at the helm of a multitude of small businesses, were at the heart of the colonial economy.



Belgravia Hotel, Medlow Bath c. 1908

History has well-recorded Sydney's male entrepreneurs; we remember Mark Foy of the Hydro Majestic, but the names of Harriet Corston and Elizabeth Ellis, the remarkable and scandalous women who ran the hotel (then the Belgravia) before him, are almost unknown. David Jones and Anthony Hordern of department store-fame are familiar but Eliza Way, Ann Hordern and Caroline Farmer are mostly forgotten yet they too founded department store empires in Sydney.

In this talk, Catherine Bishop delves into the colourful history of these female entrepreneurs of 19th century Sydney and the Blue Mountains – the milliners and dressmakers, brothel keepers and publicans, as well as the plumbers and pawnbrokers – who helped Sydney become the city it is today. Prepare to meet the eminently respectable businesswomen and some of the more disreputable con-women who plied their trade on the city streets.

Catherine Bishop is an historian at the Australian Catholic University and the author of *Minding Her Own Business: Colonial Businesswomen in Sydney*.

The talk will take place on Saturday 23 July 2016 at the Blue Mountains Theatre and Community Hub, Springwood at 2pm.

Tickets are \$10 and include afternoon tea. Available online or via: library.bmcc.nsw.gov.au or at any Library branch or at *The Turning Page Bookshop*. *Theresa Lock*

BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

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Email: committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au or j.koperberg@bigpond.com

Website: www.bluemountainsheritage.com.au

ABN: 53 994 839 952

The organisation: Blue Mountains Association of Cultural & Heritage Organisations Inc. (BMACHO) was established in April 2006 after local historical and heritage societies and individuals recognised the need for the creation of a cultural heritage strategy for the local government area (LGA) of Blue Mountains City Council. The constituency now embraces but is not limited to, the LGAs of Blue Mountains, Lithgow, Hawkesbury, Penrith and Mudgee. BMACHO membership includes historical and heritage groups, museums, commercial enterprises with an historical or heritage component in its core business, local government (local studies units, library collections) and a limited number of individual members by invitation such as but not necessarily academics. The objectives of the organisation are:

1. To raise public consciousness of the value of cultural heritage
2. To encourage and assist cultural heritage
3. 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 and is affiliated with the Better Planning Network.

Publications: BMACHO's official newsletter *Heritage* is edited by Patsy Moppett. The annual refereed *Blue Mountains History Journal* is edited by Dr Peter Rickwood and occasional papers are published from time to time.

Membership: The following organisations are members of BMACHO: Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mt Tomah; Blue Mountains City Library; Blue Mountains Cultural Heritage Centre; Blue Mountain Education & Research Trust; Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc; Bygone Beautys Treasured Teapot Museum and Tearooms; City of Lithgow Mining Museum Inc; Day Fine Art; Eskbank Rail Heritage Centre; Everglades Historic House & Gardens; Norman Lindsay Gallery; Glenbrook & District Historical Society Inc; Hartley Valley District Progress Association; Hawkesbury Historical Society Inc; Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society Inc; Leurella NSW Toy & Railway Museum; Lithgow & District Family History Society Inc;; Lithgow Regional Library – Local Studies; Lithgow Small Arms Factory Museum Inc; Mt Victoria & District Historical Society Inc; Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society Inc (including Turkish Bath Museum); National Trust of Australia (NSW) – Blue Mountains Branch; National Trust of Australia (NSW) – Lithgow Branch; Nepean District Historical Society Inc; Paragon Cafe, Katoomba; Scenic World Blue Mountains Limited; Springwood & District Historical Society Inc; Springwood Historians Inc; Transport Signal Communication Museum Inc; The Darnell Collection P/L; Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum, Woodford Academy Management Committee, Zig Zag Railway Co-op Ltd.

The following are individual members: Fiona Burn, Ray Christison, Wayne Hanley, Associate Professor Ian Jack, Joan Kent, Ian Milliss, Patsy Moppett, Professor Barrie Reynolds, Dr Peter Rickwood and Dr Peter Stanbury OAM.

Committee: The management committee for 2016-2017 (from April 2016) is: Patsy Moppett (President and *Heritage* Newsletter Editor), Ian Jack (Vice President), Jan Koperberg (Secretary), Philip Hammon (Treasurer), Scott Pollock and Wendy Hawkes (web site), Dick Morony (Public Officer/Membership Secretary/ Calendar Editor), Suzanne Smith and Laura Stinson (Events and Venue Co-ordinators), Roy Bennett. Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail sub-committee: Scott Pollock, Laura Stinson, Wendy Hawkes & Jan Koperberg.

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