

Heritage

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The Gully – a special place

One place in the Blue Mountains that has had several distinct layers of history and experienced both anguish and celebration over time, is The Gully. In the wilds of Katoomba, The Gully is a place of bush, swamps and springs where the Gundungarra, Dharug and other Aboriginal people lived. It is also known as the Katoomba Falls Valley, with The Gully forming the headwaters of Kedumba Creek. It is an ecologically and culturally sensitive place. From the 1890s onward non-Aboriginal people also frequented the area in a fringe community as a summer camp. Following the flooding of the Burragorang Valley many Aboriginal people came up to live here as a tribe.



Interpretive signage at The Gully

The Gully represented a sanctuary with abundant food sources and materials. It was concentrated in a discreet corner of the valley near a natural spring. Settlement in the Penrith valley had also forced many Aboriginal people to resettle permanently to The Gully well before 1950. The flooding of the Burragorang Valley in the 1950s, then made this process irreversible.

The Gully became a close-knit community, and they were joined by friends, family, travellers and itinerant workers, Chinese market gardeners, and other people desperate for shelter. Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people lived there in harmony.

Then in 1946 the peaceful existence of the little community was tragically shattered when the natural amphitheater was seen as an ideal site for establishment of a tourist park! The people there were forced to relocate in Katoomba or elsewhere.

The land was owned by Horace Gates, owner of Homesdale Guest House with its Wentworth Cabaret nitespot, and the tourist park was at first officially named Frank Walford Park. Frank Walford was a journalist and author, and edited the local newspaper. He was an expert bushman, exploring the local area with Eric Dark and Eric Lowe, and was also a former Mayor of the Blue Mountains.



Swimmers, speed boats and the Catalina



The lake is now for ducks

In 1946 Gates decided that a new attraction was needed to bring tourists back to the mountains after the War. Katoomba Falls was dammed to form a lake, and in 1948 the shell of a Catalina BPY-5 flying boat was transported up on a truck in pieces, reassembled, and installed in the centre of the lake on a concrete block, hence the name, Catalina Park. Speedboats made their way around the central icon amongst swimmers. Tearooms were established, and a miniature train, ferris wheel, a merry-go-round and a cinema were installed.

However, over a short time the amusements decreased in patronage and became dilapidated, with the Council purchasing the site in 1952. The plane was removed to the banks of the lake in 1954, and then sold for scrap in 1958. A treated pool was built, and for many years it then operated as the Katoomba swimming pool and New Year's Eve fireworks were held there.

Following the park closure, in February 1961, a motor racing circuit, Catalina Park, was then opened in the place the Aboriginal people had previously called home. The last of the Traditional owners and other residents were forcibly removed by 1959, their shacks demolished, and the trauma to both the land and the community, both Traditional and non-indigenous, was profound.



Days of speed, noise, high activity and excitement

The circuit was operated by the Australian Racing Drivers Club (ARDC), and its major event was the 1962 Australian Formula Junior Championship. Events were staged by the Club in association with the Blue Mountains Sporting Drivers Club (BMSDC) until 1969. At this stage the ARDC took over the Amaroo circuit and moved away from the Katoomba site. The BMSDC held a race meeting in January 1970, but went into liquidation soon after, in 1971. When it closed the lap record was held by Frank Matich in a sports car in 1969.

The 2.1km circuit was short lived due to the local weather patterns impacting upon the road surface with frost, snow and rain, making it unsafe. It was surrounded by walls, low guard railings and steep hillsides, and had limited spectator areas. In addition, it was a narrow circuit, and other more suitable tracks were opening nearer to Sydney such as Oran Park and Amaroo Park.

Originally it was used for top level motor sport such as touring cars, open wheelers, motorcycles/sidecar events, and later for rallycross using the track and an inner dirt jumps area. By the 1980s it was only used for lap dash events, with single cars on the track at any

one time. The track as such closed in 1970, although the lap dash continued on an irregular basis up until the 1990s.

Eventually the track was abandoned, but still exists and makes for a pleasant walking path, slowly becoming overgrown through the track and along the edges, and fallen trees have crushed some of the fencing.



And now – deserted, quiet, restful.....

The site can demonstrate a period of European history when tourism was high on the agenda, attempting to draw people from Sydney up to enjoy the fresh healthy air of the Mountains! The original pool is now netted, and the lake serves mainly as a duck pond. In 2003 the Katoomba Indoor Sports and Aquatic Centre opened on an adjacent site. In addition, The Gully has been able to revert back to much of its original state, and former residents and descendants of former residents have been able to reclaim a part of their history.



The abandoned track - a nice place for a bushwalk

In May 2002 The Gully was declared an Aboriginal Place under Sections 84 & 85 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, with an official celebration in November 2002.

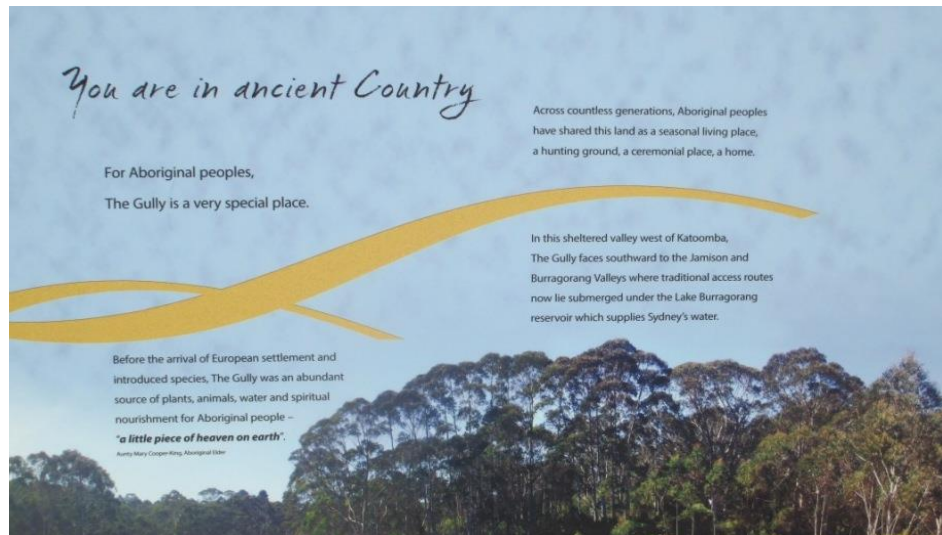
It is owned by Blue Mountains City Council, and it is ironic that BMCC was supportive of the racetrack back in the late 1950s. However, the legislation has set down that the landholder, BMCC, together with the NSW Department of Lands, has had to act with the Traditional owners to protect the Indigenous heritage of the area.

In 2008 Blue Mountains City Council (and since then several State agencies) agreed to a cooperative management with The Gully Traditional Owners, ensuring that The Gully is acknowledged and preserved as an important Aboriginal place.

Despite the impacts of European settlement and government rule in this area, many Aboriginal peoples have maintained a strong sense of their cultural identity and links with Country. Led by The Gully Traditional Owners, they continue to reinvigorate the land, their people and culture. Through projects such as The Gully Walk, they share the stories of their past, present and future.



The Gully, a special place – recognition of history, culture and Country



Much significant interpretive signage is to be found across the site to acknowledge the story, and the history of the site has now gone almost full circle, achieving the protection due to it as a significant historic and sacred place.

Patsy Moppett

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Interpretive signage on site

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Food for thought Editor's note ***Ten years on.....***

Further on within this Newsletter we look at a brief history of the Blue Mountains Historical Society, as presented by the current President, Wayne Hanley. As Wayne says, keeping such a Society maintained for 70 years is no mean feat. It is to their credit that the members have been able to maintain that continuity for so long.

The group has managed to overcome the complexities of changing communication regimes, and has embraced, through the background and knowledge lent to the Society by their members, the changing tide of information technology. And it goes on – just when you think you have your IT and your legislative responsibilities in check, something changes! But isn't that life? How we deal with those changes will auger for a successful continuation of societies such as BMHS, and also BMACHO.

Ten years since its inception, BMACHO recently celebrated its 100th Committee meeting, and earlier in the year we rolled out the 40th Newsletter edition! The current Committee feels that we have come a long way.



Committee at the 100th Committee Meeting, at Scenic World

Much as this is a great achievement, BMACHO is also on the cusp of reassessing its relevance to the promotion of culture and heritage in line with our objectives, to ensure that the association operates within the principle of best practices, and fulfils the requirements of its members. The objectives are as follows:

- To raise public consciousness of the value of cultural heritage.
- To encourage and assist the cultural heritage activities of member organisations.
- To initiate and support cultural heritage activities not already covered by member organisations.

A review conducted in 2012 by the Committee of the day, sought feedback from its members on the following issues, which are still quite relevant today:

1. Are the objectives of the Association still valid or do they need updating?
2. The quality and appropriateness of the services being supplied to members - how better can the work being done by many hundreds of volunteers, academics and professionals be recognised and promoted?
3. What are the expectations of both organisational and individual members, and their needs and abilities to provide extended and other services?

4. Is the structure of the Association, particularly the Management Committee, conducive to “best practice standards”?
5. Is the Association keeping abreast of modern methods of communication with and for its members?
6. What are the expected prospects of funding the Association’s current level of activities/service over the next few years or the prospect of funding an increased level of activity? The major source of funding for the Association during the past few years has been from various grants. Is there a need to consider alternative sources of funding and what are these sources?
7. Is the relationship between the Association and government at all levels considered to be satisfactory and if not how could this be enhanced?
8. Most societies are experiencing difficulties in maintaining membership levels. What assistance or advice should the Association consider providing?
9. Any other area which the membership may think appropriate.

In 2010, the then president John Leary, penned the following thoughts for consideration: *“There comes a time for all committee members when they leave any committee. This may be after a few years or a few decades it might be sudden and unexpected or it might be organised and planned.*

It can be argued that the ultimate responsibility for filling positions lies with the membership at the annual general or special meetings, but this is not always practical.

Since BMACHO’s inauguration there have been a number of vacancies on the Committee and these have eventually been filled. While there has sometimes been a delay, it has meant that other members have acted in a temporary role.

A planned hand-over procedure means that a new committee member, or a new office bearer, can quickly understand how the committee works and where it is going, so that individuals can take over new roles efficiently and effectively.

The organisation has in the past considered setting reasonable time limits on the terms of office for key positions, to encourage others to take those roles, and contribute new ideas. This would also ensure key volunteers are less likely to ‘burn out’ and leave the committee unexpectedly”.

BMACHO’s executive has always made a determined effort to involve every member of the Committee so that everyone should feel they are needed and their efforts are appreciated. This attitude should be maintained as a basic philosophy.

As a step towards making the wider heritage community more visible, BMACHO sought to undertake promotion within its own ranks. If we can be proud of what we are doing and make it sound exciting by being vocal, then there is a much more chance of us being seen in the community as vital and worthy of support. This resulted in the Heritage Newsletter, which provides opportunities to promote and speak out for cultural and heritage matters and groups. It has also resulted in the popular History Conference every two years, and the occasional workshop, and last but not least the Heritage Trail and its associated Open Days. BMACHO would seek now to review the past and current activities of the Association and to provide recommendations for future direction, the process to include taking into account the thoughts, desires and aspirations of the Association Management Committee and Association members.

A workshop is being held for members on 27 August 2016, at Lawson at 10.30am at the Grace Tooth Dining Room, Mid-Mountains Community Centre, 9 New Street, Lawson (behind the new shops). It is primarily to discuss the four common Open Days, which started in October 2015. The Committee would like you to help with the decision making and plans for the way ahead, and hope to see a representative of your group there on the day.

However, the bigger picture is that the Committee once again seeks comments (at the workshop and between now and the AGM next year) from members and the community on the future and relevance of BMACHO in relation to the above issues. This is particularly

critical now, when several members of the current Committee will seek to step down from their current roles in early 2017, and take a back seat.

BMACHO fully understands that each member society or group has its own responsibilities and workloads. However, if BMACHO is to continue what it has started we need more involvement from members to assist with the decision making, if nothing else. There may be organisations out there who have members who are not on committees, but who may like to represent the member group within our organisation, to provide a conduit for information between BMACHO and the member group.

BMACHO seeks input from the BMACHO community to set standards for the future and to increase active membership, for the greater good of all those involved in the Association. Feedback and suggestions may be forwarded to the following:

Jan Koperberg (Secretary): j.koperberg@bigpond.com

Patsy Moppett (President): pmoppett@gmail.com

Dr Thomas Henry Fiaschi

Thomas Fiaschi was born in Florence in 1853, the son of a professor of mathematics. He enrolled as a medical student at the University of Florence, and then at 21, left for the north Queensland goldfields. He moved back to Sydney where he was house surgeon at St Vincent's Hospital, and he met Catherine Reynolds.

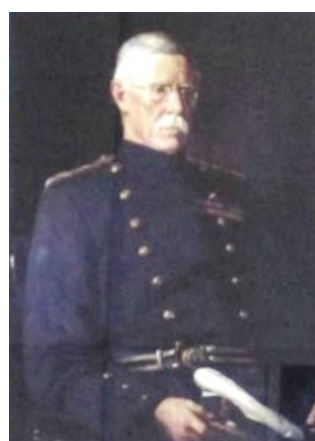
In 1876 he married the Irish born Catherine (Kate) Ann Reynolds in Sydney, a former nun from St Vincent's Hospital. They returned to Florence where he graduated, and they returned to Sydney in 1879.



As a young man



Thomas Henry Fiaschi



Brigadeer Fiaschi

They travelled to Windsor where they stayed at the Macquarie Arms Hotel, from where Dr Fiaschi first operated his practice, before moving into Thompson Square.

Fiaschi was surgeon to the Hawkesbury Benevolent Society and Hospital in Windsor from 1879 to 1883, and then in 1891 honorary surgeon captain in the NSW Cavalry Reserves, and then in 1894 honorary surgeon at Sydney Hospital. He pioneered many medical procedures and people came from all over the colony to be treated by him.

He returned to Italy for military services in the Abyssinian war. He wrote and lectured about his war experiences. He took part in the Boer War when he was promoted to Major, where he was awarded the DSO for conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty as a senior medical officer, and was mentioned twice in dispatches.

He taught advanced surgical practices during the Boer War and published several important papers.

Kate died in 1913 in Sydney. In 1914 he married Amy Curtis, a nurse at Bundaberg.

When war broke out in 1914, he left for Lemnos, where he commanded the 3rd Australian General Hospital. He became ill and was evacuated to England. He returned to Australia in 1917 and joined the Australian Army Medical Corps Reserve, and retired in 1921.

Catherine and Thomas had three sons and two daughters. The eldest son, Lodovico, was born in Florence about 1878 and was mentally retarded. He died in 1944. The third son, Carlo, born in 1880, was a medical practitioner, and in 1910 died from a self-administered dose of morphia. He and a nurse had been acquitted on a charge of manslaughter of a patient on whom he had operated.

Their second son, Piero, was born in Windsor in 1879. He studied dentistry in the USA and medicine in England, returning in 1907 to practice in Sydney. In 1909 he became a part time officer in the AAMC and, serving in Egypt, Gallipoli, France and England, rose to Lieutenant-Colonel. He then spent time in the US before returning home. He married Grace Thompson in 1917. He was clinical assistant at Sydney Hospital in 1936-46, and set up a practice in Phillip Street. His war service affected him greatly. He died in June 1948 from burns received when a spirit heater he was lighting exploded. Piero was survived by his wife and daughter.

Amy and Thomas had two daughters.

The winery at Tizzana at Sackville Reach, set up by Fiachi, is set on terraced slopes, and includes a cellar set into the hill. The stone winery building is a stone gabled Victorian structure, with an attic, timber shuttered windows, and sandstone chimneys. The business quickly established a good reputation, winning numerous awards.



Tizzana, Italy

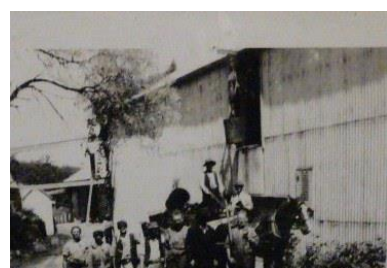
The property covered 80 hectares, which included growing grapes, vegetables, flowers and fruit, and also raised prize winning poultry. The most renown winery in the Hawkesbury district, it operated continually from 1887 until 1953, established in 1882 by Dr Fiaschi. The winery employed local farmers, Italians, French and Aboriginal workers, many of whom lived in huts on the property. Fiaschi was a firm believer in wine as a medicament. Kate taught music to the Dharug families.



Aboriginal workers



Tizzana Winery



Winery workers

Dr Fiaschi introduced the modern wire and trellis system of planting vines. He was president of the Australian Wine Producers' Association from 1902 to 1927, a councilor of the Royal

Agricultural Society of NSW, and was considered the father of the modern wine industry. Brigadier Fiaschi operated the winery until his death at his son's home at Darling Point from pneumonia in 1927.

The Hawkesbury Hospital honoured his memory and named the day surgery unit after him. Following his death his second wife Amy maintained the vineyard for the next 25 years. The winery was operated until 1953 when it was gutted by fire caused by vandals.

The Auld family, Peter and Carolyn began reconstruction of the sandstone building in 1969. Living quarters were established on the second floor. The building is listed by the National Trust, and the facility has replanted parts of the vineyard and intend to undertake expansion of the vine areas. Olive trees have been added, and the place offers wine tastings, functions, bed and breakfast and a commercial kitchen, and a range of commercial products.

Patsy Moppett

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Thomas Henry Fiaschi, Medical Practitioner www.collections.museumvictoria.com.au

Fiaschi, Thomas Henry, GP Walsh, Australian Dictionary of Biography 1981 www.adb.anu.edu.au

Was there a Dr in the Square? www.cawb.com.au

www.tizzana.com.au

Beyond 70 – developing a future for the BMHS

In 2016 the Blue Mountains Historical Society celebrates its 70th Anniversary, hosting a 'Get-together Lunch' for past and present members on September 24th, followed by an 'Open Weekend' on October 29-30, when the public is invited to visit the History Centre in Wentworth Falls in recognition of this significant milestone.

Keeping an organisation of any kind in operation for a period of 70 years is no small feat and the longevity of the BMHS reflects the past efforts of many people who have served it conscientiously through that time. However, times are changing and the task of maintaining continuity has become more complex.

At the beginning of the 1970s Alvin Toffler wrote his book 'Future Shock' in which he identified how most of the world at that time was being subjected to a process of rapidly escalating structural change as it moved into a post-industrial era. A particular emphasis was his assessment of the ways in which these changes, both positive and negative, were impacting people in different walks of life and the organisations with which they were involved. Pertinent though his comments were at that time, Toffler could little have appreciated the real power of the process of change which was soon to come to the world through the technology of the personal computer and the internet, bringing with it as it did an entire restructuring of the methodology of information access and transmittal.



Hobby's Reach, Wentworth Falls – home of the BMHS

Now, almost half a century later, we are all to varying degrees embedded in a process of change which appears to be continuous, often evolving rapidly and inexorably driven by the

expansion of information technology and the ways in which we now communicate with each other. This has significant implications for most community organisations. It is now essential for them to regularly review exactly what their purpose is, how they go about their activities and how they present themselves and communicate information to the world. To ensure stability and relevance, and to function well in contemporary times, all such organisations must keep their “mission” firmly in mind, focussing on their core objectives and purposes. To remain unaware of what the world expects from them is to fall behind and in doing so to risk decline and perhaps even eventual demise.

In these times, most volunteer and not for profit organisations require more than just a Constitution to provide them with guidance and a workable strategy which will give them a passage into the years ahead of them. In recent years, the Blue Mountains Historical Society has considered the circumstances and nature of our ‘brave new world’ and looked closely at its purpose, activities and systems with a view to developing them in ways which will fit effectively into the world of the early 21st century and beyond. In 2013 BMHS wrote a Strategic Plan to establish a preliminary framework for the development of the Society. Most organisations are engaged in a continuous process of evolution and change and for BMHS the Strategic Plan was in essence a “road map” which directed traffic in a systematic and orderly manner as time passed. Its purpose was three-fold ...

- to review and confirm the essence of the organisation, establishing and clarifying both its strengths and weaknesses.
- to consider the current status of the Society in every part of its activities and to evaluate the need for future growth and/or change in each.
- to identify specific activities and processes which must be emphasised and pursued to ensure that it continues to serve its intended purpose, remaining relevant and useful in the contemporary world.

Such a process requires several things. It needs an element of honesty about the prevailing condition of the organisation at the outset. It needs to take account of the realities of operating such an organisation in times of limited and often declining resources, both human and economic. It must be pragmatic and sensible about what can be realistically achieved given what it has to work with.

With all this in mind, the BMHS is using the occasion of its 70th Anniversary to review the initial ‘road map’, identifying what has been achieved already, considering what yet remains to be accomplished and deciding whether changes will be needed to its focus and manner of operation to take it into and through the decades which await us. A Development Plan for the next five years is being formulated to provide a clear direction and to take account of both current and likely future demands which the organisation will face in the years ahead. This Plan will revolve around the core commitment of the BMHS to promoting an interest in history, particularly the history of the Blue Mountains region, by organising events, conducting research and making the Society’s resources readily available to members and the wider community. An integral element of such planning will be to take into account how it can best use modern methods and technologies in delivering that commitment.

In most ‘not-for-profit’ community based organisations, the importance of volunteer workers is paramount. What any organisation is able to achieve directly reflects the size, enthusiasm and effort of its volunteer resource and, for this reason, the evolving Development Plan will be very much people focused and driven. But people are not the complete picture. In order for them to achieve what is needed, and behind all the individual and collective work that goes on, there needs to be a well-planned and stable set of operational guidelines that are clearly expressed and readily understood by all who engage with them. In this way, the challenges of the future for the organisation can be confronted with a good deal more certainty. What then remains is simply to get on with the job and to enjoy doing it.

Dr Wayne Hanley, President – BMHS

Faulconbridge Sawmill

Around 1914, a cable incline line was built at north Faulconbridge by Henry Joyce, to provide access to a sawmill beside an unnamed creek off Linden Creek. There must also have been a tramline or track connecting the sawmill to the base of the incline. The remains of a cutting may be seen at the end of a fire trail which runs off Highland Road. Lack of visible remains lower down suggest that the line was elevated in places on a timber trestle, and drawn with heavy metal cables by a steam driven winding engine.



Wheel ruts along wagon track



Cutting at top of incline



The boiler in situ



Railway wheels

The old cable driven ropeway dropped steeply, down some 150m, and the lower cutting, although overgrown somewhat is quite distinct. At the creek the line ran along an elevated wooden trestle. Crossing the creek, the remains of the plant are indicated by large metal wheels washed down the creek, cables wound around trees, and still in situ, the steam boiler. Near the boiler are a large crankshaft upended into the air, with a wheel (the flywheel?) buried beneath it in the ground, a sandstone machinery bed, rail remnants which connected the boiler to the mill, a second wheel on the creek bank, old bricks and other miscellaneous pieces of steel concealed in the ferns. Retaining walls are to be found here and there along the creek below the plant.

The boiler is largely intact, due to its location, and it can only be imagined how they got the machinery to the site in the first place. The boiler was built around by sandstone blocks for the firebox, and was known as an under-fired multi-tubular boiler, a common feature of industrial sites across early Australia. Any timber elements of the mill, the railway line and the ropeway have been long burnt in bushfires.

The boiler is some 6ft high, and 12 ft long, with a tube diameter of 4" and a total of 48 tubes. The crankshaft emerges from the ground by about 5 ft 6 ". It is estimated that the boiler would have generated about 53hp.



Retaining wall



Rail line



Machine bed



Large drive wheel

Interestingly the wheels and axles are metric – these were probably imports. The gauge was exactly one metre, and the wheel diameter was 600mm.

In 1909 a parcel of 60 acres was leased by Henry Joyce. He established the sawmill down on the creek, driven by the steam boiler, to cut sleepers for the railway. Over time he increased his holding to about 400 acres. Once cut, the sleepers were drawn up the cable railway to horse drawn wagons and drays waiting at the top, and then transported to Faulconbridge railway station. Wheel ruts can still be seen cut into the rock in places along the track off the end of Highland Road.



The grand old lady



4 June 2016



Memorial - March 2016

Brass plaques mark the names of those recognized by the community. A re dedication of the memorial occurred in October 2011, following restoration work carried out by Blue Mountains City Council. Brass plaques provided by the Mount Victoria RSL Sub-branch acknowledge this work and those who sponsored the project.

Recently the centenary of the Memorial was celebrated by the community, on 4 June 2016, in a ceremony attended by representatives of the RSL, Members of State and Federal Parliament, the police Local Area Command, local RFS and many others. The day involved a wreath laying, followed by afternoon tea.

Patsy Moppett

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Lithgow Mercury, 5 June 1918

Mount Victoria Memorial PARK, NSW Department of Environment, inventory sheet 2001

Blue Mountains Gazette, 15 June 2016

Hassan's Walls and Zig-Zag Featurettes

From 12th March 1953 through to 11th March 1954, *The Lithgow Mercury* published a column titled "Hassans Walls and Zig-Zag Featurettes". The column ran every week for 54 weeks. The format was a double column historical item followed by about 20 two-line (mostly) classified advertisements.

The historical section was compiled by Ernest Joseph McKenzie, Lithgow historian and signwriter/artist. McKenzie had been a Trustee of the Hassans Walls Reserve from September 1937 until May 1952, when he resigned, having reached the compulsory retiring age of 70.



EJ McKenzie



View south west from Hassans Walls



EJ McKenzie

The name "Zig-Zag" was included in the heading of all except three of the featurettes. In 1944 the Hassans Walls Trust was given the extra responsibility of caring for the Zig-Zag Reserve (dedicated in 1881).

E. J. McKenzie was born in Lithgow in 1882 and educated at a local school. From 1900 to 1914 he studied and worked in Sydney, Mudgee and several towns in western New South Wales and Queensland. He attended classes at the Royal Art Society and learned lettering at the Harris Street Technical College. In Lithgow he set up business as a signwriter. He was very active in the community, playing the clarinet in orchestral groups, and holding leadership roles in Rotary, the Show Society, the Hassans Walls Trust, and the Lithgow Historical Society - where he filled the roles of secretary and research officer for many years. As an artist McKenzie painted watercolors, made sketches and etchings and produced illuminated addresses, as well as teaching art classes.¹

The advertisements

The format of the Featurettes, which appeared in the classified advertising section of the paper, was a double column historical information section followed by two single columns of 18 to 22 two-line advertisements for Lithgow businesses. Advertisers were asked to update their ads week by week. Some of these adverts included references to Hassans Walls, for example:

26th March 1953 -

Eat Eckford's pies and cakes at Hassans Walls.
Hassan's Walls photos developed & printed. Cockerton's.
See Hassans Walls in a new Vanguard Spacemaster.
Take your sandwiches from Bracey's to Hassans Walls.²

9th April 1953 -

Before going to Hassan's Walls call at Pratten's.
Fill up with Shawcross' petrol for Hassan's Walls.
Smoother walking to Hassan's Walls. Summons' shoes.
Sandwiches from Bracey's are tasty at Hassan's Walls.³

16th April 1953 -

Ladies' and gent's umbrellas for Hassans Walls. Cockertons.
Walking to Hassans Walls is easier in Bracey's shoes.⁴

4th June 1953 -

Drive to Hassan's Walls in a car from Bracey's.
Summons' shoes are comfortable when going to H. Walls.⁵

Historical Section

The historical sections covered a wide range of topics covering Lithgow and the surrounding district.

The first Featurette, published on 12th March 1953, was an introduction to the concept:

HASSAN'S WALLS - LITHGOW'S PRIDE

To help feature the Hassan's Walls and Zig-Zag beauty spots, which are the finest in the Blue Mountains, the Lithgow Mercury and the Hassan's Walls and Zig-Zag Trusts are asking the business men and women of Lithgow to couple a weekly run-on advert,

with one featuring our tourist attractions. These adverts, will pay and interest our readers. So far the sponsors are delighted with the reception of the idea. They have not had time to see any but the following firms, and every one of those contacted is co-operative. As each week progresses there will be further batches, with a view to making this little section of the Mercury interesting and productive.

Special Note. - Advertisers please alter your slogans weekly and thus attract customers as our famous Hassan's Walls attracts tourists.

The advertisements which followed were:

- ALBERT Rickard, watchmaker and jeweller. Watch specialist.
- BENNETT and Opie, Austin cars and trucks. Phone 451.
- BRACEY'S suggest you visit Hassan's Walls and Zig-Zag.
- COUNTRY Club sports shirts, 59/6. Max Gower's.
- DELICIOUS Cornish pasties, Smith's Main Street Bakery.
- FOR finer shoe repairs, Hutchinson and Bell, 94 Main St.
- FURNITURE specialists - Finley's, Lithgow and Orange.
- FOR your next suit, see Whyte's, tailors.
- FOR those choice viands, see O'Donnell's.
- GENT'S second-hand cycle, æ6 Capellino's Cycle Works.
- HASSAN'S Walls snapshots developed, printed. Cockertons.
- HAROLD Miller, fruit specialist. Main Street.
- HAREX tweed sports coats, æ10/19/6. Max Gower's.
- HAND knitted and crochet jumpers. Tatt's Lay-by Shop.
- MEN'S special shoes, 49/11. Economy Shoe Stores,
- QUINLIN'S for quality cooked provisions. 120 Main Street.
- RADIO Electrix for all lighting requirements.
- TED Hennessy, Hotel Lithgow. House of good beer.
- TRY this on Mum – flowers from Martin's.
- TIME to plant bulbs. Aitken, the florist.
- WATCH this space for future adverts. Sutton's Butchery.
- WINDJACKETS, all shades, æ4/15/-. Peter Pan.
- 16oz. Smorgans frankfurts in tomato sauce, 2/-. Neubeck's.6

19th March 1953

The second Featurette was printed with the heading "Hassan's Walls and Zig-Zag Featurettes". This was to begin all except three of the Featurettes.

HASSAN'S WALLS AND ZIGZAG FEATURETTES

The first meeting of your Hassans Walls Trust was held at Lithgow Town Hall on April 5th, 1917. It was convened by Mr. James Padley, a gentleman who had already done yeoman work in the area. The meeting was sponsored by the Lithgow Progress Association, of which he was secretary. The Trust comprised Mr. Geo. Langlands (chairman), Mr. J. Padley (secretary), Mr. Thomas Evans (treasurer), and Messrs. James Ryan, Geo. Chivers and Stephen Kelly, and was incorporated under the Public Trust Act 1897. That was the beginning and the Trust is still carrying on.7

(The first Trustees had been appointed in 1892/93 as "Temporary Trustees". They were: Thomas Bennett, James Ryan, Horace Edward Seymour Bracey, John Owens, Samuel Hodge Gannon, Joseph Campbell.

Three gazettals were needed before the Gazette got the names printed correctly!8.

In 1898 the two areas of the Reserve were revoked and combined as one, but somehow this process omitted to reappoint the Trustees.9 Finally, after many years of agitation from the Lithgow Progress Association, new Trustees were appointed in 1917.)

HASSAN'S WALLS — LITHGOW'S PRIDE

To help feature the Hassan's Walls and Zig-Zag beauty spots, which are the finest in the Blue Mountains, the Lithgow Mercury and the Hassan's Walls and Zig-Zag Trusts are asking the business men and women of Lithgow to couple a weekly run-on advert. with one featuring our tourist attractions. These adverts. will pay and interest our readers. So far the sponsors are delighted with the reception of the idea. They have not had time to see any but the following firms, and every one of those contacted is co-operative. As each week progresses there will be further batches, with a view to making this little section of the Mercury interesting and productive.

[Special Note.—Advertisers please alter your slogans weekly and thus attract customers as our famous Hassan's Walls attracts tourists.]

ALBERT Rickard, watchmaker and jeweller. Watch specialist.

BENNETT and Ople, Austin cars and trucks. Phone 431.

BRACEY'S suggest you visit Hassan's Walls and Zig-Zag.

COUNTRY Club sports shirts, 59/6. Max Gower's.

DELICIOUS Cornish pasties. Smith's Main Street Bakery.

FOR finer shoe repairs, Hutchinson and Bell, 54 Main St.

FURNITURE specialists—Finley's, Lithgow and Orange.

FOR your next suit, see Whyte's, tailors.

FOR those choice viands, see O'Donnell's.

GENT'S second-hand cycle, f6. Capellino's Cycle Works.

HASSAN'S Walls snapshots developed, printed. Cockerton's.

HAROLD Miller, fruit specialist. Main Street.

HAREX tweed sports coats, £10/19/6. Max Gower's.

HAND knitted and crochet jumpers. Tat's Lay-by Shop.

MEN'S special shoes, 49/11. Economy Shoe Stores.

QUINLIN'S for quality cooked provisions. 120 Main Street.

RADIO Electrix for all lighting requirements.

TED Hennessy, Hotel Lithgow. House of good beer.

TRY this on Mum—flowers from Martin's.

TIME to plant bulbs. Aitken, the florist.

WATCH this space for future adverts. Sutton's Butchery.

WINDJACKETS, all shades, £4/15/-. Peter Pan.

16oz. Smorgans frankfurts in tomato sauce, 2/-. Neubeck's.

Phone 43

HASSAN'S WALLS AND ZIG-ZAG FEATURETTES

Hassan's Walls was a township before Hartley was known, and all that land lying to the south, west and north of the mountain on which the Walls stand was known as Hassan's Walls before the name was changed to Bowenfels in 1842. Hassan's Walls was proclaimed a township in 1834, but the name was on Government maps as early as 1823. When the post office at Collit's Inn, at the foot of Mt. York, was closed in 1832 it was two years before another was opened in this district, letters being delivered by police in the meantime. The Mt. Victoria Pass was opened in 1832 and, after certain cleaning up was done in that section, the stockade was moved to Hassan's Walls, another being under Mt. Walker.

A. Rickard specialist in chiming, striking, alarm clocks.

BEFORE going to Hassan's Walls call at Pratten's.

CHUD Goodwin. Cycles, sundries and repairs since 1903.

COCKERTON'S for mothers handbags and overnight bags.

DRURY'S Florists for floral tributes at shortest notice.

FOR a cool beer try Ted Hennessy's.

FOR fresh lobsters and prawns go to McBeth's.

FILL up with Shawcross' petrol for Hassan's Walls.

LATEST hair styles from the Chic Beauty Salon.

LOOK for Morris' lower priced fruit specials tomorrow.

MOTHERS Day stockings with colored heels at Cockerton's.

PEDERSEN'S for Rolex and Omega watches. Phone 663.

FORGES' Chemist for complete pharmaceutical service.

REID'S Newsagency for all stationery requirements.

RON Brown's sponges and pies.

SOLVE your home worries. W. P. Evans, Estate Agent.

SMOOTHIE walking to Hassan's Walls. Summona's shoes.

SANDWICHES from Bracey's are tasty at Hassan's Walls.

SMITH'S Bakery for delicious custard and apple tarts.

SUTTON'S specials. Veal, pork, lamb, beef and poultry.

QUINLIN'S for tasty, smoked frankfurts. 120 Main St.

First Featurette 12 March 1953

Featurette 9 April 1953

The advertisers (on 19th March 1953) who used "Hassan's Walls" or "Zig-Zag" in their ads were:

- BUY Hassans Walls provisions at Basser's Grocery.
- BRING Bracey's Billy and Billy Tea to Hassans Walls.
- FILL up with Shawcross' petrol for Hassans Walls.
- JACK Pratten's Penfold's wines for Hassans Walls.
- RON Brown's sponges & pies for Hassans Walls.
- ZIGZAG accident photos 1/6. Cockerton's Photographers.7

26th March 1953

(This did not have the "Hassan's Walls and Zig-Zag Featurettes" heading.)

WHO NAMED HASSAN'S WALLS?

Most Australian place names can be traced to aboriginal or English origins but not "Hassans Walls."

It was thought the name "Hassans" was derived from one of the convict workers named Hassan who worked on the Great West Road (1830-1836). This was proved incorrect as "Hassans Walls" appeared on land maps prior to the year 1830 and, furthermore, it was found that the records do not show the name of Hassan as a convict.

If any reader has any information regarding the name "Hassans Walls" would they please contact Mr. A. W. Hanmer, 11 Waratah-street, Lithgow.10

1st April 1953

(Again, there is no "Hassan's Walls and Zig-Zag Featurettes" heading.)

HISTORY AND BEAUTY OF ZIG-ZAG

In 1881 the Zig-Zag was dedicated as a public reserve and not until 1944 - 63 years later it was included in the scope of the Hassans Walls Trust. Like Hassans Walls, the Zig-Zag has many historical events circulated around it. From the various look-outs the magnificent work accomplished by the early settlers of this country - and especially the engineers - can be visualised and appreciated.¹¹

9th April 1953

HASSAN'S WALLS AND ZIG-ZAG FEATURETTES

Hassan's Walls was a township before Hartley was known, and all that land lying to the south, west and north of the mountain on which the Walls stand was known as Hassan's Walls before the name was changed to Bowenfels in 1842. Hassan's Walls was proclaimed a township in 1834, but the name was on Government maps as early as 1823. When the post office at Collit's Inn, at the foot of Mt. York, was closed in 1832 it was two years before another was opened in this district, letters being delivered by police in the meantime. The Mt. Victoria Pass was opened in 1832 and, after certain cleaning up was done in that section, the stockade was moved to Hassan's Walls, another being under Mt. Walker.¹²



Hassans Walls

30th April 1953

(No Hassan's Walls and Zig-Zag Featurettes head.)

HASSAN'S WALLS

*I looked o'er Hassans Walls to-day
When mountain mists had cleared away,
The air was crisp, and sweet, and good,
Where on that rocky ridge I stood.
The sky was blue, while clouds of grey
Kept skudding swiftly on their way.
With scented gums for miles around,
No lovelier spot could well be found.
Dame Nature with a magic spell,
Has moulded you and done it well;
She formed and drew a mighty plan,
And limned* a scene no artist can.
Forgetting, by the world forgot,
For hours I viewed that lovely spot,
Then turned away with many a sigh
From Hassans Walls, and said good-bye.
-JACK TRACY.¹³*

* "limned" – "limn, to represent in drawing or painting", *The Pocket Macquarie Dictionary*.

HASSAN'S WALLS AND ZIG-ZAG FEATURETTES

In 1846 Colonel Mundy gives a description of Hassan's Walls in his book, *Our Antipodes*. "An immense crescent of crags naturally castled, 400 or 500 feet high, towering above the forest and frowning grimly down upon the road which winds round their base. Here are ramparts and bastion buttress and barbican of nature's own building—the perfectly horizontal character of the strata and the cube form of the blocks making the resemblance to ruined fortifications extremely striking; had I been travelling in Hindustan I should not have doubted that it was some formidable 'Hill Fort' we were approaching and I should have expected to hear the clangour of gongs and braying of shawms and have seen a brave cavalcade of elephants and camels with the glittering of steel casques, the fluttering of gay pennons and all the pomp of oriental panoply, winding downwards through umbrageous jungles.

"Hassan's Walls are, in outline, not unlike Gwalior; but the latter fortress is situated on a plain. Who was Hassan and whence the Moslem and Byronic name? We get no answer from the echoes."

CLAUDE KISSALL can give satisfaction in car greasing.	J. COLLINS & SON for full home delivery service.
DELICIOUS delicatessen from Jones' Delicatessen.	LAY-BY your Xmas toys at Eric Duncley's now.
DRIVE to Hassan's Walls in a car from Bracey's.	NORMAN'S Dry Cleaning for six-hour service.
FOR a better drink try Ted Hennessy's.	PRINTING that Pleases—the Mercury job.
FOR a real meal try the Taurist Cafe.	QUINLIN'S delicatessen for delicious crumpets and pikelets.
FOR expert clock and watch repairs see Albert Hickland.	SUTTON'S butchery for choice cockerels and pork.
HAVE you popped a hospital fund? See J. R. Porges.	TRY chocolate cream roll and sponge from Smith's bakery.
JOHNSON'S Tyre Service for expert retreading, re-capping.	TRY Eckford's for tasty cakes and pies.
J. MARTIN & CO., carrying contractor, 78 Laurence St.	THIS cut-out gives 6d. discount off any article. Cockerton's.

Thu 16 Apr 1953 / Page 3 / Advertising

HASSAN'S WALLS AND ZIG-ZAG FEATURETTES

In 1831 Michael Keenan received a small grant of land at the foot of Hassans Walls, one of the first three grants in the valley. He built an inn, and in 1835 was appointed deputy postmaster, holding that office until he died in 1846. He is buried at the rear of Drew's orchard in the most historic cemetery in the district. Originally there were twenty headstones, today there are about nine. On a clear day they may be seen through field glasses from the Walls, but a visit to the graves is worthwhile. The inscriptions are interesting and the carvings quaint, one inscription being described as "sweet in its expression and soothing in its thought."

Featurette 16 April 1953

Featurette 23 April 1953

Keith Painter

References:

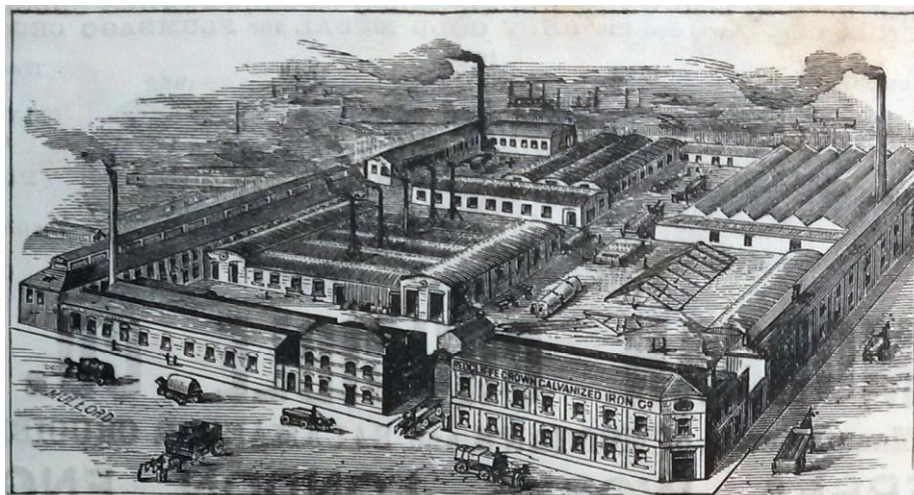
- ¹Lithgow Mercury, 12 February 1954, p.2, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article220826291> and other references in Lithgow Mercury, various dates
- ²Lithgow Mercury, 26 March 1953, p.5, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article223418110>
- ³Lithgow Mercury, 9 April 1953, p.5, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article223424236>
- ⁴Lithgow Mercury, 16 April 1953, p.3, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article223431308>
- ⁵Lithgow Mercury, 4 June 1953, p.3, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article223419263>
- ⁶Lithgow Mercury, 12 March 1953, p.3, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article223427504>
- ⁷Lithgow Mercury, 19 March 1953, p.3, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article223424530>
- ⁸New South Wales Government Gazette, 1 November 1892, p.8776, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article222177923>; NSW Govt Gazette, 18 November 1892, p.9163, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article222179049>; NSW Govt Gazette, 6 January 1893, p.76, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article220963967>
- ⁹NSW Govt Gazette, 22 October 1898, p.8405, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article220979976>
- ¹⁰Lithgow Mercury, 26 March 1953, p.5, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article223418110>
- ¹¹Lithgow Mercury, 1 April 1953, p.5, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article223426593>
- ¹²Lithgow Mercury, 9 April 1953, p.5, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article223424236>
- ¹³Lithgow Mercury, 30 April 1953, p.3, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article223416453>; for a slightly longer version see Lithgow Mercury, 31 October 1946, p.5, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article219613978>; for more of Tracy's poems — <http://trove.nla.gov.au/list?id=92075>

The Technical Side

Corrugated galvanized iron

Rain on the roof? Haven't we all grown up with that sound!

The term "corrugated galvanized iron" (CGI) is used to refer to both wrought iron and mild steel varieties. Until the late 1800s metal sheeting was made from wrought iron. In 1890-1910 it was replaced by mild steel.



Redcliffe factory Bristol 1887

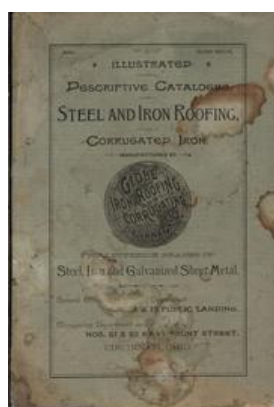
Wrought iron CGI is no longer available, but some early roofing has survived.

Although corrugating and pressed metal tiles have been around for 100s of years, successful methods of cold-rolled corrugating and crimping, which added to the strength of flat sheets, was not effective until the 1840's. Corrugated iron was first patented in 1829 by Palmer, and made in a factory established by Richard Walker. Henry Robinson Palmer was architect and engineer to the London Dock Company.

Subsequently, galvanizing was introduced to reduce corrosion from water and air exposure, where steel can revert to iron oxide (rust), by immersion in hot molten zinc. This process was first patented by Stanislas Sorel in France in 1837, and his method remained largely the same until the late 1900s.

This made the sheeting strong, durable, light weight and easily transported. This enabled shorter spans between battens without sagging and therefore less timber framing. In particular, it lent itself to prefabricated structures, and improvisation by semi-skilled workers. Construction costs could be reduced.

The gold rush in Australia was a major catalyst for the use of corrugated iron in Australia, when speedy construction, flexible, light weight and cheap building materials were needed.



It has been widely used since 1850 and has become part of the cultural identity. Corrugating plants were established in Australia in the 1860s, and a galvanizing plant in 1863. The early processes required ready access to electricity and were not really cost effective for large scale production. However, there was limited production, and builders still relied on imported sheet iron.

Steel smelting commenced in the early 1900s in Lithgow, and then Lysaght set up a large scale corrugation and galvanizing works in Newcastle. Back in 1857, a 25-year-old Irishman by the name of John Lysaght saw potential in corrugated iron sheeting, and started exporting it to Australia under the trademark "ORB" from his Bristol factory. Lysaght corrugated iron then continued on to contribute to the nation's domestic and industrial landscape. In 1888 John Lysaght had developed a four roll galvanizing machine that ensured an even more uniform zinc coating, providing more reliable quality and saving on zinc. Lysaght's Kembla works had corrugation machines in 1938-39, and by 1961 Lysaghts had continuous rolling and galvanizing facilities.

In many instances the sheets were marked with the maker's brand or maker's stamp, by either a rubber stamp or a stencil, applied before the sheet was run through a corrugation machine.



Rusty roofs at Hartley, NSW

During the second part of the 1800s Australia became the premier export market for the British corrugated and galvanized iron industry, and established corrugated iron with a special place in Australian architecture and aesthetics.

Zincalume was introduced by BHP in 1976, although zinc galvanized steel is still available. Both are available in oven baked, pre-painted finishes such as Colorbond.

Several profiles were available, relating to the length and pitch of each corrugation.

BHP acquired the Lysaght company in 1979, and it is now a division of BlueScope Steel.

In the early days of galvanizing, coating could be uneven, thicker on one side, or not continuous. This resulted in uneven corrosion. The continuous rolling methods now used have largely overcome this. Galvanising inhibits the corrosion of steel, but rusting is inevitable, especially in coastal areas, where salt water encourages rust, or in acidic rainfall areas.

Corrugated galvanized iron is a feature in most rural heritage environments and remains in some urban heritage landscapes. Whilst replacement is a straightforward option in heritage conservation, to retain and manage the fabric is also an option. Complete replacement may mean utilizing materials that are very different from those used previously. The aim should be to match the original as much as possible, using secondhand sheeting, and matching things like profiles, colours, sheet lengths etc. Galvanised or zinc coated steel is still available in Australia although usually limited to thin zinc coatings, which is therefore less protective.



The Australian icon

Use of zincalume presents problems in that it maintains its gloss for much longer than zinc, and can react with traditional lead flashings.

The principle in prolonging the life of corrugated galvanized iron is in maintenance and keeping the surface clean. Where a roof is steeper and water and litter run off easily, the life of a roof is longer. With the fragility of some structures, frequency of cleaning will need to be balanced with adverse effects, such as excessive walking on the roof. Regular checks to ensure sheeting remains soundly attached, reduces weather invasion. In addition, patching, temporary repairs like slip sheets, and painting can also extend the life of sheeting.

References:

Corrugated roofing, NSW Heritage Office Maintenance Series No. 4.1 2004

Wikipedia

Why do corroded corrugated iron roofs have a striped appearance? Dirk HR Spennemann 2015

Recording Historic Corrugate Iron, Dirk HR Spennemann 2015

www.lysaght.com

Community events & updates

Remembering “Reiks”

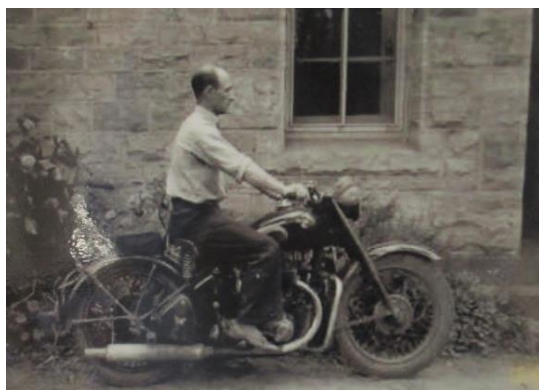
On 12 August 2016 a gathering of people came together at the Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum to celebrate the dedication of a memorial plaque to Hendrikus Hendrick Trip (“Reiks”).

Reiks was born in Klazienaveen, Netherlands, on 8 February 1914. He was the second of the twelve children of Roelof & Aaltjie Trip. During WWII he worked as a bread vendor and later he helped on the family’s poultry farm including being responsible for all of the financial aspects of the business.

He emigrated to Australia in 1951, at first to Darwin. Soon he was working for the NSW Government Railways at Valley Heights Depot as a fuelman. This involved working on the coal stage and in the ash pits. Later he worked on the locomotives, stoking the fires and keeping steam up. These jobs were very dirty and Reiks commented that he and the other workers were black by the end of their shifts.



Reiks delivers bread



On his motor bike



Reiks

Reiks lived locally and joined in many of the social activities, and mixing with other Dutchmen in the area.

On Friday 10 April 1953, as Reiks was walking to work along the railway track, he was struck and killed by an east bound locomotive at about 7.50am. A funeral service was held at Chatswood on 14 April, but his place of burial is unsure.



Attendees (photo Andrew Tester)



The unveiling by Alie & Rikie (photo by Andrew Tester)



Plaque (Photo Andrew Tester)



Family with Irene Grootendorst

The event was attended by local dignitaries including Irene Grootendorst, Senior Management Assistant, Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Susan Templeman, MHR, Federal Member for Macquarie, Trish Doyle, MLA, State Member for the Blue Mountains and Mick Fell, Blue Mountains City Councillor. Family members came from both the Netherlands and New Zealand – Rikie & Henk Schuurke, and Alie & Roelof Boxem, Rikie and Alie being Reiks' nieces.

Watch this space for the fascinating story of how the family tracked Reiks down from the Netherlands!

Patsy Moppett

References:

Valley heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum

Associations Incorporation Regulation

The Associations Incorporation Regulation 2010 is to be repealed on 1 Sept 2016. The changes were exhibited until 29 July 2016.

The Associations Incorporation Regulation 2016 has been developed to replace the previous Regulation and to support amendments to the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (the Act) resulting from the statutory review of the Act.

The proposed Regulation includes the following key changes:

- allowing for electronic voting
- adding a new provision to keep financial records for at least 5 years, where there was previously no time period specified
- adding a non-distribution and wind-up clause into the model constitution
- amending the model constitution to include electronic communications and the use of technology at meetings
- adding to the list of unacceptable names for associations
- revising the fees payable, eg. fees for lodging the annual financial statement.



BMACHO members, associations and societies must be aware of these changes, which should be reflected in charters and constitutions.

Patsy Moppett

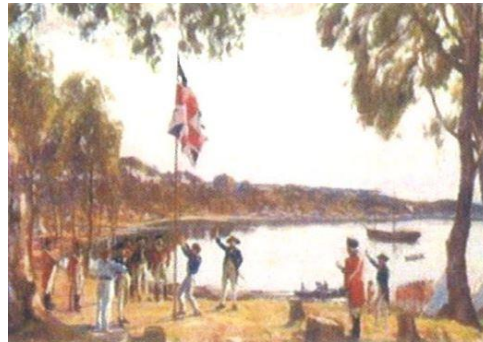
For further information: www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au

First Fleeters' Wedding Anniversary

On 10th and 11th February 2018 it is intended to celebrate the 230th wedding anniversary of First Fleeters, Henry Kable and Susannah Holmes, in the beautiful Hawkesbury town of historic Windsor.



St Phillips 1809



Sydney Cove 1788

The event will be sponsored by the Kable Family Association. All Kable-Holmes descendants and their families are invited to celebrate the event.

Henry and Susannah were married at Sydney Cove on 10 February 1788. They appear in the register of St Phillips Church as marriage license No. 3 of 1788. Associated family names include: Kable, Cable, Teale, Gaudry, Mileham and Fitz.

Sharon Lamb

For further information contact:

Jane van Woerkom janevanwoerkom@hotmail.com or Mobile: 0417 439 444, 0417 055 516

Editor's note: Interestingly, the original St Phillips Church was built by orders of the colony's first chaplain, the Reverend Richard Johnson, using convict labour, in 1793. The wattle and daub construction church was later burnt down by convicts in 1798.

The Reverend Johnson had been given the responsibility of religion in the new colony, and as it was more than 5 years before the temporary church of wooden posts, wattle and plaster was built, he held services in the open air, in a storehouse, or in whatever hut was available. A number of couples were married within a few months of convicts arriving in the First Fleet. Many marriages were for the wrong reasons, but many other marriages lasted, such as Henry & Susannah.

A stone church, St Phillips, commenced construction in 1800 on Church Hill. A tower was added in 1802-04. The tower subsequently collapsed and was replaced by an odd round clock tower. It was used until 1856. It was made from poor quality materials and gained a reputation as "the ugliest church in Christendom". Despite this and for many decades the community came to Church Hill for weddings, births and funerals.

Henry and Susannah were the first convicts to experience the benevolence of Arthur Phillip, not applying the law in Australia that convicts had no right to sue, no right to be a witness, hold property or make contracts. He allowed them to sue the captain of their ship for theft of their belongings on the voyage out from England. As the formal records had not reached Phillip he had no proof of their convict status, and believed that Henry and Susannah had the opportunity to redress the wrong that had been done to them. With the Reverend Johnson and other appointed persons being on the court panel, their belongings were returned to them.

Even before they sailed, compassion had been shown to Susannah, when the ship captain had refused her baby to accompany her on board the ship. The gaoler was so moved that he went direct to Whitehall, carrying the child, and Lord Sydney recommended that the child be returned to its mother.

Henry and Susannah's story is an amazing one, and 230 years later their families will celebrate their lives.

Patsy Moppett

References:

Wikipedia

The Colony, Grace Karskens 2009

1788, David Hill 2008

Arthur Phillip, Michael Pembroke 2013

Paragon Centenary Events

Friends of the Paragon are promoting a number of events at the Paragon, Katoomba and at Tarella Cottage Museum, Blue Mountains Historical Society, Wentworth Falls over the coming months to celebrate the centenary of the Paragon.



Friends of The Paragon 2016 CENTENARY EVENTS



- ❖ Receiving entries for the Paragon Café Centenary Cake Baking and Decorating Competition until **Friday September 9**.
- ❖ **Saturday August 27**, 2pm: Greek Cafes & Milk Bars of Australia Lecture at the Blue Mountains History Centre, 99 Blaxland Road, Wentworth Falls. Entry: \$15 – includes afternoon tea and the exhibition.
- ❖ **Sunday August 28, Sunday September 25, Saturday October 1**: Paragon Café Exhibition and Open Days for the Blue Mountains Historical Society at Tarella Cottage Museum, 99 Blaxland Road, Wentworth Falls. Entry: \$5 adults, \$2 children.
- ❖ **Saturday September 3**, 2pm: Blue Mountains Radio Players performing live at the Paragon Café, 65 Katoomba Street, Katoomba. Entry: Entry: \$15 – includes afternoon.
- ❖ **Wednesday September 7**, 7.30pm: The Paragon Café Centenary Celebration at the Paragon Café, 65 Katoomba Street, Katoomba – by invitation only.
- ❖ **Saturday-Sunday September 17, 18**: from 10am: The Paragon Café Centenary Cake Baking & Decorating Competition at the Paragon Café. On display to the public. Lucky door prizes!
- ❖ **Tuesday September 20**, 2pm: Afternoon soiree with 2 local school choirs performing live at the Paragon Café. Entry: \$15 – includes afternoon tea.
- ❖ **Saturday December 17**, from 10am: Get your DIY picture taken with Santa at the Paragon.

Sue Pears

Note: The November-December issue of the *Heritage* Newsletter will feature a brief though interesting history of the Paragon, presented by the Blue Mountains Historical Society.

For more information:

Paragon Café Ph: 02 4782 2928

Blue Mountains Historical Society Ph: 02 4757 3824

www.theparagonhistory.com.au

www.bluemountainshistory.com

“Stevo” is back!

The Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum advises the following for the next Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail Open Day on 1 October 2016:

Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum is pleased to announce that Steam Train Rides will now be available on the next Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail open day on Saturday 1st October 2016.

It will feature our “Valley Heights Mixed” train using the 1899 Stephenson steam loco affectionately known as “Stevo”.



“Stevo”

This perky little shunting engine arrived in Australia in the early 20th century and was used for many years at the Portland cement works.

Currently undergoing boiler tube replacement, the loco will be back in service soon and visitors will ride in an open ended platform carriage from the 1890s. *Keith Ward*

Ref:

Keith Ward, Publicity Officer, Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum.

Feuding Neighbours

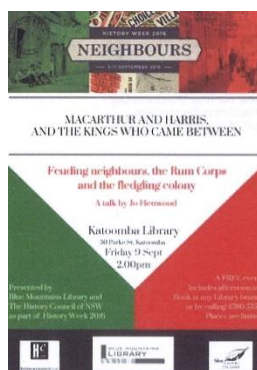
History Week 2016 at Katoomba Library, on Friday 9 September 2016 at 2pm, presents a fascinating tale of feuding neighbours in the fledgling colony. Historian Jo Henwood introduces us to John Macarthur, of Elizabeth Farm in Parramatta, and surgeon John Harris, of Harris Park, who were not the best of neighbours.

Macarthur's ambitions involved harnessing the compliance of the Rum Corps (and the rest of the colony) and isolating Governor King. Difficulties arose when Harris started to support King and became more complicated when nephew Hannibal (across the Parramatta River) married into the King family. This talk explores the machinations and intrigues of the relationship between these historic neighbours.

Theresa Lock



John Harris

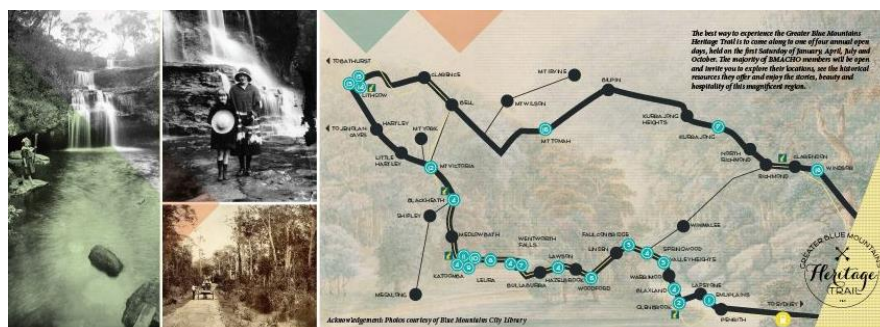


John Macarthur

This is a FREE event but you must book in by calling or visiting any Library branch as places are limited. For more info phone: 02 4780 5750. Presented by Blue Mountains Library and The History Council of NSW

Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail

The next common Open Day is Saturday 1 October 2016



The Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail (GBMHT), a project of BMACHO, has four common Open Days each year, i.e. the first Saturday of January, April, July and October, and includes historical societies, family history societies, museums, heritage properties, heritage gardens and heritage businesses.

With an increase in interest and awareness of the Trail, BMACHO now awaits the next **Open Day on 1 October 2016**. The Trail enables travellers to experience the history and landscapes, and the extensive sources of archives, images and stories presented by members of the Trail. In addition, the Trail draws in eateries and accommodation venues along the way. Brochures are available at participating businesses and Visitor Information Centres from Parramatta through to Orange, from Hawkesbury to Wollondilly, and out through Oberon to the Jenolan Caves.

See www.heritagedrive.com.au or www.facebook.com/GBMHeritageTrail

BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

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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.

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 its members. If errors are found feedback is most welcome.