

# *Heritage*

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## **Carlton's Farm, Green Gully, Megalong Valley**

From 1788 all land in the colony was owned by the Crown. In 1824 Surveyor Hoddle undertook surveys for the colony, and in 1832 the first parish map was drawn up. Then in 1861 conditional purchase was introduced to distribute Crown land. This enabled land to be taken up after improvements had been made to a farm, which could include slab huts, yards, sheds etc

Combined with the land distribution and settlement patterns, the isolation of Burragorang and Megalong Valleys served to produce a hardy breed of people who survived in trying times, making do with what materials they had to hand to provide for their families.

Carlton's farm, Green Gully is one of the earliest farms in the Megalong, and the remains of former buildings and other infrastructure can still be seen.



*Green Gully Farm House*

The Carlon (Carolan) family was one of the first to settle in both Valleys and the following is a brief description of settlement there and the beginnings of Green Gully, with a view to place in context why it is vital that the remaining features of the farm be preserved for future generations.

### **Burragorang Valley**

Bryan Carolan was born in Ireland in 1780. He eventually married Ann Reilly. However, in 1820 Thomas O'Reilly and Bryan Carolan were transported from Ireland, being convicted of

conspiracy to murder against the British. They both served John Jamison at Emu Plains for about 15 years, after which they settled in Burragorang Valley. In 1828 Ann and their two children Patrick and Margaret followed him out from Ireland. He received his ticket of leave the same year, and in 1835 he received his conditional pardon.

The centres of Upper and Lower Burragorang and Cox's River settlement began in 1828. Bryan's name morphed to become Carlon, but Carlons were still not listed in the 1828 census at Upper Burragorang. Once established, the Carlons cultivated the river flats, and then later selected them.

Young Patrick had been born in 1807, and Margaret was born in 1811. In 1831 at age 24 Patrick bought 80 acres in Burragorang Valley, as surveyed by Surveyor Elliott. The deeds however were not issued until 1838. He also purchased 820 acres in 1835, and then purchased some 2,000 acres from John Campbell.

In 1837 Patrick married Mary Ann Purcell. They had 7 boys and one girl, commencing the Carlon family dynasty.

The original 80 acres became known as Carlon Town, and all the good land in the Valley was selected by the 1870s. The next land to be taken up was the talus slopes below the cliff lined rim of the Valley.

The first crop of any kind in the Valley was planted by John Lacey 1829, and the first wheeled vehicle in Burragorang Valley was actually built there by Patrick Carlon. Patrick Carlon and his son Bernard had taken the first wheeled vehicle into the valley, a dray lowered by ropes from the old pack horse track over the cliff side, the "Jump Down".

The first wheat crop grown in the Upper Burragorang was by Patrick Carlon and his father Bryan, and the first crop grown at Lower Coxs River was by George Pearce. Aboriginal elder William Russell recalls that Michael Quig also grew wheat in the Upper Burragorang about the same time.

Carlon Town, Portion 19 Parish of Nattai, was a central area of the Burragorang settlement, where Patrick & Joseph Carlon had their residences. From Patrick's land 3 acres were taken for a school site, church, residence and burial ground, as Central Burragorang. A post office was put at Mick Carlon's for a time. Mrs Patrick Carlon was to have had the post office located at her residence in 1906, but it remained at the old site.

Catholic mass was first held in the home of Patrick Carlon in 1833. In 1839 the Archbishop actually held mass on the Carlon farmhouse verandah! A church was called for by 1839, and a stone church was built on Carlon's 80 acres, which was used until 1957 when the valley was flooded. Patrick died in 1883 leaving some eleven properties to his seven sons.



*Burragorang Valley after the flooding – from Nattai Lookout*

Patrick's son Bernard Carlon was born in 1841. Bernard and his father Patrick were always on good terms with the Aboriginal people, and Bernard was reputed for treating ill people.

Bernard Carlon was very active in the settlement of the Valley. He and others obtained permission in 1893 to search for silver and lead near The Peaks. In 1919 he requested a money order service for the post office, but this was refused.

The Carlons were all educated as their parents were educated. Many other children suffered as their parents were not educated and they had little access to schools, with having to help out on the farm being a higher priority than an education.

Bernard and his wife Mary, settled in at Burragorang, and had nine children – Bernard, Francis, Patrick Luke, Margaret, the twins Norbert and Mary Anne, Teresa, Alphonsus and Agatha. Their daughter Teresa was a teacher.

The elder Bernard was blind in later years and was known as the *grand old man of Burragorang*. He died in 1925.

In 1907 lots were sold at the Yerranderie township, and Bernard's son Norbert Carlon bought Lot 73 on Taylor Street.

A new school site was pegged in 1915 for a school at Portion 109 Parish of Nattai, on land owned by the younger Bernard and Alphonso Carlon, facing the main road. It was built by 1917. The Upper Burragorang school was then closed.

A Mr. T Carlon had a store at the Yerranderie mines and Carlons also ran a boarding house. The Upper Burragorang had wider river flats and better access to Camden, therefore the settlers were able to build a better style of housing. They were always conscious and proud of their convict heritage.

The Carlons remained in the Burragorang Valley until 1957 when the valley was flooded to form Warragamba Dam. Eight generations of the family were spread across the district. Over time, many moved further afield to Megalong Valley, but there have always been close links between the two valleys.

### ***Megalong Valley***

There are various routes between the Burragorang Valley and Megalong Valley, mainly based on old Aboriginal trails, and the two valleys are closely linked through people, industry and history.



*Megalong Valley from the Hydro Majestic, Medlow Bath*

1818 saw Thomas Jones, a naturalist, looking for horticultural specimens in both valleys. In The first official settlement in Megalong was undertaken in 1838, when the first survey there was done by W Davidson for George Aspinall.

The first landuses in Megalong were agricultural, with guesthouses and timber supplementing incomes. The guest houses catered for the bushwalkers and trail riders who later frequented the valley throughout the year.

In 1866 European access into the valley was from Hartley. There was an Aboriginal track from Blackheath, Megalong Road and Nellies Glen from Katoomba, and via Devil's Hole and Redledge Pass.

There would have been squatters in Megalong Valley before the first land grant by Norton in 1824. By the time the coal and oil shale seams were mapped in 1865, the first land was taken up by George Aspinall. Miners were brought in from Joadja in 1890 by the company AKO & M, and a road to the mine was constructed in the 1890s. Blacks Ladder had been a former tenuous access route for the fit and healthy, a former Aboriginal route. Kerosine shale was discovered in Nellie's Glen in 1870, and in 1885 JB North started shale mining.

In 1884 a search was carried out to find a horse track from Katoomba to Jenolan Caves. When completed it became known as the Six-Foot Track. The south end of Megalong Valley obtained access from Megalong Valley Road.

The population grew, and a hotel, butcher, general store, bakery, billiards room, boarding house, post office and public hall were established. Once the mines closed in 1904, all buildings were demolished and removed to Katoomba.

A village was established near the Diamond Creek/Megalong Creek junction, with a hotel, stables and vegetable garden. A school was located on England's property near where Nellies Glen road goes to Megalong Creek. It was moved to the Nellies Glen mining village. There were no police, but in 1893 there were some 70 children at the school. In 1892 the post office was operated from the Megalong store by Elizabeth James, and the timber industry had begun to thrive with timber needed for fuel, heating and mining.

Development was generally close to the track.

Early settling families included Boyd, Tolhurst, Duff, Duncan, Carlon, Kirby, Grady, Ward and Gracey.

### **Green Gully**

The Carlon family's property Green Gully was first selected in the 1890s by Mr Tolhurst, having been surveyed by Mr Chapman in 1891. Tolhurst forfeited his selection in 1905, although the site was first known as Green Gully in 1903.

Green Gully is on Portions 44 and 45, and was known as Green Gully from the 1890s, bounded by Galong Creek to the north and Carlons Ridge to the south.



*Carlon family at Green Gully 1908*



*Family at Green Gully*

At New Year in 1903, following a serious drought in 1902, a bad bushfire hit the valley, burning most of the timber houses. Following the fire some people left the valley, but many remained, and houses were replaced. A road was opened to Blackheath via Blackheath Glen, and the next generation of houses were built of sawn timber and pise earth walls. Then in 1905 there was a rabbit plague.

Green Gully was leased by Bernard Carlon in 1908 at age 67, and then sold to his son Norbert. Norbert and his sister Teresa were the only children left at home by this stage. Patrick and Phillip Carlon were pound keepers, Joseph kept a slaughterhouse, and Bernard C Carlon was an auctioneer.



Norbert and Alice Carlon (second and third from right) and bushwalkers 1937

Bernard and Norbert built the wattle and daub house, Green Gully, in 1908 and both lived there. Norbert lived there until his death in 1958, his wife Alice remaining there until 1976, when she moved to live with her daughter. She died in 1986.

In the 1920s motor cars were on the scene, and tourism began along with the activities from the Hydro Majestic. But even by 1956 there was no road down to Green Gully, and their supplies were left at the top of the hill and brought down to the house on horseback or sulky. Electricity was achieved in 1966.

Although it had commenced long beforehand, serious bushwalking in the Valley did not commence until after WW2, including walkers such as Miles Dunphy. A drought came again after WW2, and tree lopping was used for feed. Bushwalkers at the time appealed to Norbert to influence the cattlemen to reduce the cutting, as tree loss was causing erosion and diversion of riverbeds of the Upper Wollondilly River.

Both Carlons Farm in Green Gully and the Packsaddlers below Carlons Saddle were frequented by bushwalkers and became popular camping and stop-over points on Galong Creek.

Norbert's son Bert, and his wife Norma, commenced their horse riding concern with Packsaddlers in 1963. Their house was at the rear of Alice's where they had settled in 1960. Both Norma and Alice had cared for the survivors of the Oonagh Kennedy tragedy in 1967, in Alice's little house.

Bert Carlon had been born to Norbert and Alice Carlon in 1924. He carried on a tradition begun by his father Norbert, in hosting the walkers and horse riders at Packsaddlers. He was a known story teller. He was known to say that a damper was not worth the eating until it was 3 weeks old. He made regular visits back to Burragorang Valley along the Coxs River to visit family.

Most of the work was done by the women, mainly Alice and her daughter Bernadette. Bernard O'Reilly described Green Gully as "*A peaceful, forgotten little pocket amongst the wild ranges over beyond Megalong*", where he frequently visited as a child, sleeping on the earth floored verandah, and visiting every time he was back in the district in later years.



*A young Bert Carlon*



*Bert and Norma Carlon 1950s*

***National Parks and Wildlife Service***

Green Gully was purchased by the National Parks and Wildlife Service in 1998, and this brought Green Gully within the Blue Mountains National Park. The Carlons Creek Bushcare Group – Megalong Valley, is based at Green Gully, and was formed in 2006, and Blue Mountains City Council has the entire site listed as a heritage item of local significance. The NPWS had a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) drawn up in 2001 to identify several houses in the vicinity of Green Gully, including Alice and Norbert’s house, known as Carlon’s Farmhouse, built in 1908. Norma and Bert Carlon built nearby in the 1960s. Norbert and Alice’s house is described as a rammed earth building of solid construction, a vernacular farmhouse with associated kitchen gardens, erected to replace a former slab building on the site, destroyed in the 1903 bushfire. Originally the house contained 3 rooms, a living room and 2 bedrooms. By the late 1930s the bushwalking clientele necessitated the construction of a boys’ bedroom and a girls’ bedroom (strict segregation back then). The house then had 5 bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen in the rear courtyard, an external slab bath house and front and rear verandahs. The bedrooms served both the family and as guest rooms over time.



*Construction techniques, Green Gully*

It was not a traditional rammed earth building, having a timber stud frame with window/door openings. The construction was uncommon in NSW, but common in South Australia, where it was known as “pug and pine”. The front wall was clad in weatherboards, facing north. Uncommon materials for the time included corrugated iron, glass, it had a water tank and the weatherboards. The yard contained a kitchen garden and orchard, and cottage gardens.

The CMP refers to the building in 2001 as a ruined house in a cultural landscape, already in a “ruinous state”, and notes the weatherboards having been still in place in 1960.



*Side and rear additions – bathroom, kitchen*

Photographs taken during the Kennedy tragedy in 1967 show the weatherboards still in place then, but they have since either been removed or have rotted away. Bert had partly dismantled the front verandah, and then fell ill, carrying out no further work.

The CMP outlines the significance of the place as follows:

- Green Gully is an integral part of the history of the Carlon and O’Reilly family history.
- There were numerous Aboriginal tracks passing through Green Gully.
- Aesthetically, the vistas from the place are spectacular, and the garden plantings are typical of Megalong farmhouses after the 1903 bushfire.
- The family connections and the cultural landscape are significant.
- The site provides an understanding of the land “selection” process, and the operation of self-sufficiency that existed during early settlement.
- It is a rare example of this architectural construction.
- Its principle characteristics demonstrate a representative example of construction after the bushfire.

Green Gully was a gateway to the Megalong and Burraborang Valleys, a cultural interface, and a place of regional significance. Five generations of Carlons occupied the valleys, from the start of exploration and mapping, through to the decline of cattle and the commencement of the conservation movement, and its purchase in 1998 by NPWS. They used very particular building techniques and materials, particularly after the 1903 bushfire.



*Internal wattle and daub*



*Green Gully setting*

The CMP provides policies for the long-term conservation of the significant fabric of the dwelling and the cultural significance, with no emphasis on an actual reuse of the building, and the impact of any works on the place having to be carefully considered.

Any actual reuse of the building would have to consider the National Construction Code and the Disability Discrimination Act, for fire and access. Access to the building must be suitably managed. Where it is only being used for interpretive purposes, upgrading is not required to be undertaken as it would destroy the fabric of the place.

It is noted by the CMP that any activities on the site have the potential to impact on the National Park itself, and that access to any historic places in the NPWS estate is on a priority basis. They must determine the condition of the place, threats to conservation, and the sustainability of the place for interpretation. The place should be monitored, information collection should be ongoing, and the S170 register updated (Heritage Act – s.170 NSW agency heritage register).

The CMP is to be reviewed every 5 years or when new information requires a policy change. The CMP claimed that the Carlon family have been liaising with NPWS ever since the NPWS purchase of the place, and regular meetings were taking place. It is unknown if this still occurs.

Section 4.1, p.134 of the CMP provides that:

- NPWS should ensure the site remains publically available.
- NPWS should increase public awareness.
- Green Gully should continue to be used as a track head.
- Additional infrastructure in BMNP should not detract from the significance of the place.
- All fabric should be retained and enhanced. The buildings should be repaired for interpretation, with traditional materials.
- Regular maintenance inspections should be undertaken, and preventative maintenance and repair undertaken when required.
- Staff should have a thorough knowledge and understanding of the site.
- The potential for future use by NPWS through interpretive programs, for field studies and other cultural tours, and for interpretation of/with the Aboriginal community, should be explored.
- The CMP contains an implementation program for the immediate, short, medium and long terms, and for any ongoing works.

### **Conclusion**

The site is currently unfenced and quite accessible, although in an overgrown, weathered and possibly unstable state. Many garden elements are evident, as are construction techniques and associated outbuildings and primitive infrastructure.

Much as BMACHO realise that we cannot save every heritage item or place, this site and its curtilage seem to represent a very particular part of the history of western settlement, and should at least be stabilized, contained and interpreted.

BMACHO has forwarded correspondence to the Department of Environment and Heritage (NPWS) in early November 2017 to ascertain the current status of both the CMP and the cottage at Green Gully, and is yet to receive a response.

*Patsy Moppett*

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## **Food for thought ..... Editor's note**

### **Helping each other**

Whilst the former Museums Advisor to Blue Mountains and Lithgow Councils, Lynn Collins, has hung up his hat and headed for greener pastures, he has left the museum community with some things to think about.

Lynn contacted BMACHO seeking feedback from the BMACHO membership with regard to specialist needs of museums in the region. Lynn sought to gauge the concerns of cultural heritage agencies, and how they might liaise with both BMACHO and Blue Mountains City Council, with a view to augmenting and improving the effectiveness of BMACHO as an umbrella organization.

Although BMCC has commenced the process of seeking a replacement Museums Advisor, Lynn will be more than happy to assist his successor.

Some of his recommendations include:

1. An examination of cultural heritage agency archives, looking at better management, preservation and improved access.
2. Auditing cultural heritage groups' (and other community groups?) current and future needs for secure, safe, accessible shared repository.
3. Thoughts on staffing of cultural agencies like museums, notably in regard to:
  - Coordination of volunteers;
  - Expert assistance Council staff may be able to offer;
  - Advice on caring for heritage properties occupied by heritage/community groups;
  - A safety audit of places used by workers and visitors.
4. Ideas on the improved presentation and marketing of cultural heritage collections via eg
  - Ensuring museum representatives are consulted and included in cultural heritage forums;

- Ensuring collections are promoted and showcased;
- Updating and active promotion via Visitor Information Centres and web-sites;
- A small grants system for research and creative 3D interpretations of Blue Mountains history for the public arena including museums;
- Employing expertise in fashioning destinations and projects using museum collections that refer directly to the education curriculum, and fostering their use by schools.

Only one response was received to Lynn's request for feedback, but it emphasized the vital part that BMACHO could (and does) play in the coordination and dissemination of information relating to heritage issues.



*Workshopping the issues*

BMACHO held a workshop in 2015 on succession planning, which was well attended, as was this year's Trove workshop. These subjects alone apply to all community groups, not just museums, and BMACHO continues to provide a forum for the sharing of many other ideas and information, with other workshops being considered for next year.

One example in recent months has been the use of freezers in museums for the stabilization of objects. The acquisition of a freezer by one member group was considered, and feedback from another member organization was able to provide information as to how to go about it. The current situation being experienced by Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Historical Society, as documented in this Newsletter, is a classic example of how spreading the word leads to the inflow of ideas for solving a problem.

BMACHO would encourage member organisations to share their successes as well as their dramas with the wider community through the conduit of BMACHO. You never know who you might be able to help, or who may be able to help you.

BMACHO will continue to liaise with local groups, Blue Mountains City Council and relevant State agencies on matters of common concern, and welcomes requests for help and assistance at any time. BMACHO may not have the answers, but would endeavor to refer the matter to whoever may be able to assist.

### ***Crisis at Mt Wilson***

The Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society archives have been stored and accessed in the former Mt Wilson primary school building for many years. Built in 1891, the school outlasted the ups and downs of changing populations and world affairs of WWI and WW2, finally closing in 1983, and was dedicated by the Minister for Education as an Adult Education Centre in 1988. Scholars were housed in the adjoining school residence, while the school room was used as a conference centre with seminar rooms attached. The school building has proven to be a successful research centre, and has enabled the retention and conservation of many priceless documents and photographs from the history of that area. In October 2017, Stephen Dean from the Study Centre Council presented a report to the Historical Society committee concerning the state of the building. The information was then confirmed to the Historical Society by Joe Montano, Chair of the Mount Wilson Study Centre Inc.



Mount Wilson Study Centre



Village entry signage

Unfortunately, there has now been structural damage to the building by termites which will need to be repaired. The reports provided to date indicate that *“the subfloor areas of the former school building have suffered significant degradation as a result of the combined effects of historical and current termite activity, dry rot, settlement of piers and age. The conclusion that has been reached is that the school house is no longer safe for occupation.”*

The school building had been closed and no further bookings taken. It is expected that the building will be out of use for quite some time. Joe expressed concern not just for the building but for the Society’s collection. Subsequently, the building has been stabilised and the Society has been granted permission to remain in the building in the short term.

The building is owned by the NSW Department of Education. However, the Department has advised that it is not prepared to do anything to repair the damage, even though the Study Centre is listed on the Heritage Act Section 170 State agency heritage register.

A termite inspection had been undertaken, a building report prepared, and termite baits have been placed around the building at a cost of \$6,200.00.

Thus, the Study Centre Council is left with the responsibility. There was some suggestion that the Mt Wilson Progress Association would assist but that is uncertain.

A recent funding application under the Community Heritage Grants to digitise the collection was unsuccessful, as the collection was deemed of only local or regional significance, not national significance. Now the local community must develop alternative plans to raise funds for the building’s structural repairs.

The Society itself, needs to determine interim measures that will allow them to store and use the archives, and also gain access to the collection for when external researchers want to use and view material. At present members of the MW&MI Historical Society will need to sign an indemnity form which will be drawn up by the Study Centre Council. Added to that is the question of where researchers can work, and also for those who need to sort the collection, which requires attention urgently. The temporary solution is that they hire the Village Hall from Blue Mountains City Council for which the cost would be \$15.00 per hour, as opposed to \$30.00 per hour for others.

The principle issues faced include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Accessing the archives for both Society members and researchers.
- Security of the building and the collection.
- Establishing a suitable library storage area and a work area.
- Seeking funding to address the various issues eg. BMCC heritage assistance program.
- Establishing suitable conditions (temperature and humidity) under which to store the collection in the short and long term.
- The possible use in the short term of a container for storage and the issue of where to locate it.
- The possibility of a shared storage arrangement.
- Retaining the collection in Mt Wilson or Mt Irvine.

The archives are not fully digitised, and as a result, in case of fire, the Society may lose their treasured resource. The bulk of the collection amounts to about what would fit into a single garage.

At the recent Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society AGM, BMACHO Vice President Ian Jack addressed the group to make suggestions and provide BMACHO support. Several members of BMACHO were then able to view the collection in situ, where it is stored in two rooms being the closed in front verandah of the former school building. The archives section of the collection is the least affected by insect invasion, due to any careful labelling and storage which has occurred to date. Filing cabinets have been used, but much remains in storage boxes and lever arch folders on open shelves.



*The collection – photographs courtesy of Dr Peter Rickwood*

The use of a refrigerated storage container, suitably acclimatised, has been suggested, but the location of such a structure is an issue. BMACHO Treasurer Phil Hammon has sourced some container quotes for reference purposes. The Mt Wilson community appears to be generally reluctant to consider the location of containers within their local area.

The Society is encouraged to contact the Department of Education to remind them of their responsibilities for repairs and maintenance, and also to liaise with Blue Mountains City Council to discuss temporary storage arrangements, waivers in rental fees etc to assist in the short term. BMACHO have offered to provide the Society and also the Study Centre Council with letters of support where needed, for both the building restoration and the safety of the collection.

Consultation has commenced with the Blue Mountains Historical Society to discuss options for short term housing of the collection at Hobbys Reach and Mt Victoria respectively, and a sympathetic response has been received from both organisations. However, until BMHS undertake their own planned collection storage review in 2018, it is unknown what space would be available on that site.

So, for the moment the Society is not faced with urgently finding a suitable place to store the archives. However, when the building repairs commence, if ever, the society will have to vacate. A long-term solution must be determined.

The Royal Australian Historical Society has been contacted, and BMCC's Heritage Advisor Christo Aitkin is aware of the situation, as is the former Museums Advisor, Lynn Collins. Other local community organisations at Mt Wilson are aware of the problem. Christo has requested access to the report on the structural/termite damage.

The Society has approached the local State member Trish Doyle for support, and it will also require further consultation with the Study Centre Council itself.

A working bee on the first weekend on 3-4 February 2018 will be held in the Village Hall, to sort the archives, and undertake any culling required. A Committee meeting before this will determine the best way to approach this exercise. It has been recommended that insect bombs be utilised in the rooms prior to the working bee to ensure the confidence and safety of volunteers.

BMACHO members are asked if there are any volunteers willing to assist on the day.

For further information contact BMACHO.

More recently, a proposal has been recommended by the NSW Heritage Office staff that a co-design group be formed to establish a way forward to seek funding and undertake actions to restore the buildings. The group would include representatives from the Mt Wilson and Mt

Irvine Historical society, Mt Wilson RFS, Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Progress Association, Mt Wilson Study Centre Council and the Heritage Office of NSW. Patsy Moppett

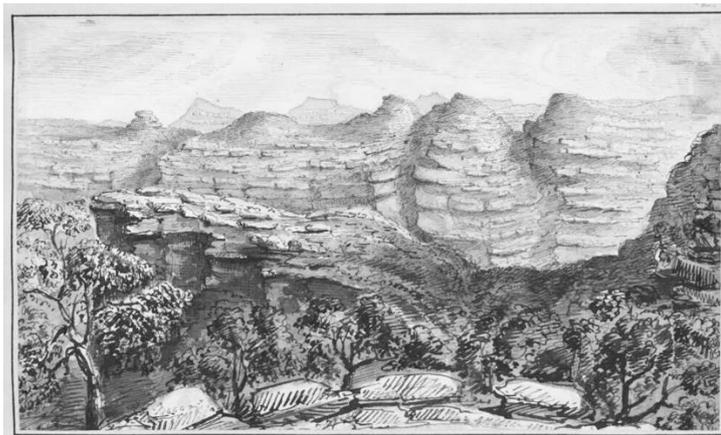
*References:*

*The above information is sourced from conversations and emails from various concerned sources who have contributed to a lively and productive discussion on the subject. These include: Mary Reynolds, Jan Koperberg, Professor Ian Jack, Dr Peter Rickwood, Stephen Dean, Joe Montano, Christo Aitken, Stefan Indyka, Dr Carol Liston, Des Barratt, Phil Hammon, Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society, Mount Wilson Study Centre, Mt Victoria & District Historical Society & Blue Mountains Historical Society.*

**Book Review: “Wayfaring in Wollemi: stories of people in wilderness”**

The Wollemi Wilderness is the largest declared wilderness in the state. At 4,250 square kilometres, it extends more or less from the Bell Range to the Hunter Valley. It occupies a substantial portion of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, and lies largely within the area once generally considered to be the Blue Mountains.

In 1904 a gent by the unfortunate name of Cecil Poole set off from Putty in a bid to reach the Capertee Valley, crossing what is now the Wollemi. He was trying to find a tortuous path purportedly used to take a prize bull to market by the McLean family, back in the 1870s. Perhaps the most enduring outcome of his failed adventure - aside from his colourful account of the experience - was a patriotic poem that was published in “The Bulletin” a few weeks later. It was evidently inspired by the remarkable view he enjoyed while standing on Gospers Mountain, at the Wollemi’s geographic centre.



*Govett’s “Scenery of the Blue Mountains”*



*Geologist, Joseph Carne*

Poole spent most of his adult life wandering the Australian bush, plying his trade as a phrenologist and writing articles for rural newspapers as he went. Some of those articles suggest he was quite eccentric to say the least. He wasn’t mad though. Poole had advanced views on conservation for his time, and wrote at length on how land clearing and farming practices were degrading the land. And he spoke up for women, railing about their lot in life and the evil effects of their husbands’ heavy drinking.

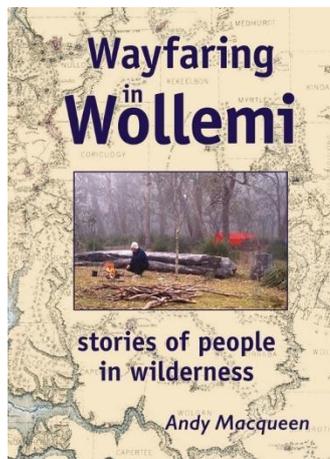
Around the same time as Poole’s Wollemi adventure, geologist Joseph Carne was wandering the Wollemi extensively, seeking out and mapping the myriad volcanic mountains and “holes”. He was supposed to be mapping the coalfields at the time, and his interest in what he called the “veritable oases” of the Wollemi seems to have arisen from his love of the place.

Poole’s and Carne’s stories are just two of 28 told in “Wayfaring in Wollemi”. The other “wayfarers” variously include explorers, colonial surveyors, cattlemen, railway and dam builders, soldiers, bushwalkers and conservationists. They all spent a part of their life in the

Wollemi, for one reason or another. Some hated it, some loved it. Some could only see it as a target for exploitation while others spent their lives in the cause to conserve it. Take William Govett, of Govetts Leap fame. In 1833 he was sent by Major Mitchell to survey all the country between Bell and the Colo. He ran into all manner of difficulties, ultimately finding the country inaccessible. Rather than admit defeat, Govett faked his work, and his resulting imaginary mapping was not exposed for another century. Mitchell didn't know of the deceit but may have been suspicious: Govett was sacked soon afterwards. Govett no doubt had that part of the mountains in mind when he later wrote this appraisal:

*"It will remain forever, as it is now, a desolate and uninhabited region, where even the animals are seldom seen, where nature itself has been rendered defective, and useless both to man and beast, and where the observer would exclaim and feel, that He who made these mountains alone can declare their use."*

The person who finally corrected Govett's work was Army surveyor Hugh Clews. He had difficulties too, but he revelled in them. He loved the bush.



*Poole's Canyon*

If George Townsend had had his way back in the 1880s, a railway would today be snaking its way up the nearly 100 kilometres of the Colo and Capertee River gorges: a great railway journey of the world indeed. Unfortunately, Townsend was so obsessed with the project that he was in denial about the enormous technical difficulties and expense involved. He was into grand schemes, among other things publishing a book expounding his plan to drought-proof all of NSW.

A few years later a man named John Cotton was behind a hare-brained plan to dam the Colo with logs, and flood all the "useless" country. Had the railway or the dam perchance materialised, we would not now have the rip-roaring tales of wilderness adventure also to be found in the book.

Then there's Bob O'Neill, Vietnam veteran, renowned Oxford professor of the history of war, and now Blue Mountains resident. The book tells the story of O'Neill's role in the enormous army exercises which took place in the Wollemi in the sixties - and also reveals how the experience changed his life.

O'Neill is not alone. Another of the book's wayfarers, Haydn Washington, has spent his life saving the Wollemi and other wild places, and can trace his endeavours and world view back to a life-changing experience on the Colo River in 1974.

Another wayfarer in the book is the author himself. Andy Macqueen has spent much of the last 20 years literally following his subjects through the wilderness. In the course of his efforts to "get inside their heads" he tells some of his own story, and reveals his personal attachment to the country. Thus, the book not only provides a rich history of fascinating people – and the cultural history of the Wollemi in general – but also stands as piece of very personal nature writing.

*Andy Macqueen*

Beautifully presented, "Wayfaring in Wollemi" has 352 pages, 140 images and maps, and a hard cover. It is available for \$40 from Blue Mountains bookshops and (post-free in Australia) from the author at [andymacqueen@gmail.com](mailto:andymacqueen@gmail.com)

#### **Caption notes**

- The author's companions camped in the tracks of Cecil Poole on a tributary of Coorongooba Creek. Poole referred to the spot as a "true canyon", possibly the first application of the word "canyon" to such a place.
- Geologist Joseph Carne (Carne family papers, National Library of Australia)
- William Govett's "Scenery of the Blue Mountains" (National Library of Australia). The scenery depicted is strongly reminiscent of the Wollemi country that was his downfall.

## **The Technical Side**

### **Bespoke Shoemaker**

A bespoke shoemaker makes custom made footwear, bespoke meaning spoken for, to speak for something, or custom-made. The shoes are usually made for a particular person or for a particular event. "Bespoken" means ordered, commissioned, arranged for, and was first cited from 1607.



*Early shoes – Celtic, tribal, Scandinavian*

Shoes, as such, date back to the Egyptians, the Chines and other early civilisation, and were often simply a piece of plaited grass or rawhide strapped to the feet. The actual fitting or comfort of footwear was not considered until the 1850s. In the 1840's the rolling machine and the sewing machine revolutionised shoe making. Once technology came, the need for handmade shoes was reduced.



*In the workshop*



*Shaping the last*

At the end of the Middle Ages round and square toes shapes became popular. During the reign of Henry VIII shoes could be 6 inches wide and were known as foot bags. As with many of the early trades, techniques were passed down from master to student through apprenticeships, and years of practice were needed to learn the craft. Nowadays, training is carried out in colleges and universities and the manufacture is mostly by machine.

The principle tools of the trade included:

- Last – the wooden model of the foot.
- Awl – a tool to poke a hole in the fabric.
- Clans – a clamp held between the knees to hold the work.
- Die – a sharp knife for cutting sizes and shapes of leather.
- Long stick – a tool for rubbing the surface of the outer sole after founding and tacking.
- Paring knife – a sharp knife to trim away excess leather.
- Pincers – pliers used to pull through a reluctant needle when stitching.
- Punch – a tool for making holes in leather.
- Shears – a large pair of scissors for cutting leather.
- Tranchet – a form of French clicking knife held along the arm.

The feet are measured and a last for each foot is created. Paper templates transfer the design to the leather, which is then stitched with lining and stiffening. The uppers are attached to the sole, and the heel built up to the required height. The bespoke maker's label is attached to the insole, and the shoe polished.



*Modern hand-crafted shoes*

At the first fitting, the customer tries a prototype pair of shoes made in an inexpensive leather and the shoemaker checks if anything needs to be changed. If so, the changes are applied to the lasts and the shoes are created with a precious leather. After the final lasts are created, the customer can order more pairs of shoes without more measurements and fittings.

It is noted that a bespoke shoemaker is different to a cobbler, who is a person who mends and repairs shoes. The difference between the two trades was once considered so vast, it was a serious insult to call a shoemaker a cobbler (the latter of which is a term that also means to work clumsily or bungle).

The modern form of bespoke, orthopaedics, involves making shoes especially for people with special needs, or for stage or screen shows. There are still small teams of shoe designers, shoemakers and leather artisans committed to making comfortable and stylish shoes or leather accessories to particular requirements.

*Patsy Moppett*

*References:*

*Rare Trades: Making things by hand in the digital age, Mark Thompson 2002*

*Wikipedia*

## Community events & updates

### **George W Evans Monument Unveiled**

On Saturday 26 November 2017, the Lithgow Regional Branch of the National Trust (NSW) unveiled a new interpretive sign at The Evans Crossing Monument on Antonio Reserve, next to 1202 Hampton Road, near Rydal, NSW. This was to acknowledge the achievement of George W Evans (1780-1852): surveyor, explorer, artist and draftsman, who with a party of five, was the first European to cross the Great Dividing Range NSW on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1813. Paul Brunton OAM FAHA, Emeritus Curator of the State Library of NSW, unveiled the sign, ably assisted by a local school boy. Paul then gave a presentation on the life of George W Evans.



*Memorial plaque 1963*



*New interpretive Sign unveiled*

The new sign was funded by Lithgow Regional Branch of the National Trust (NSW), Lithgow City Council and Bill Hoolihan of Rydal.

An earlier monument had been erected in the grounds of 1202 Hampton Road, when this building was the school. It is now a home and the monument had been moved some time ago to Antonio Reserve. This earlier monument was erected by the Lithgow District Historical Society in 1962, and reads:

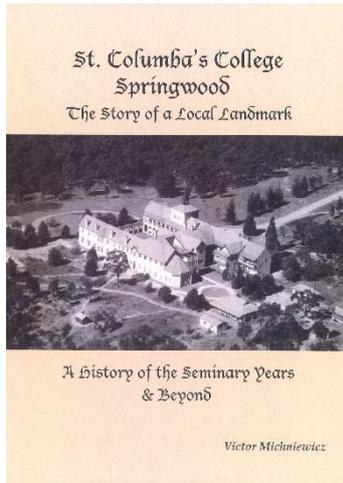
“IN THIS VICINITY  
THE FIRST CROSSING  
OF THE MAIN DIVIDE  
WAS MADE ON NOVEMBER 29 1813  
BY  
DEPUTY SURVEYOR GEORGE WILLIAM EVANS  
WITH  
RICHARD LEWIS, JAMES BURNE, JOHN COOGAN,  
JOHN GROVER, JOHN TIGHE  
LITHGOW DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
1963”

*Jan Koperberg*

### **Book Review: *St. Columba's College, Springwood - The Story of a Local Landmark***

#### ***A History of the Seminary Years & Beyond - Victor Michniewicz***

St. Columba's College is a landmark that is well known not only to Springwood locals but also to many residents of the central Blue Mountains. The choice of Springwood as the location of the Catholic Church's first minor seminary in Australia was not only important for the Catholic community, but also for what the establishment of the seminary would bring to the local community. The purchase of the property by the Church would have a significant influence upon the way in which north Springwood (later Winmalee) developed.



Established in the early 20th century, St. Columba's College would draw students from across Australia. For well over half a century, it would continue to grow until, over the space of a few short years, student numbers declined and in 1977 the seminary doors would close only to re-open just one year later as a Catholic high school.

The book is based entirely on historical facts that have primary sources as their foundation. The true story of St Columba's is a fascinating and complex one, so important from a local history perspective.

This is the story of that institution - its establishment, development and the nature of daily life for those that passed through its gates.

*Victor Michniewicz*

*The book is now available for \$40.00 plus postage. Contact Victor at [emailofvictor@gmail.au](mailto:emailofvictor@gmail.au)*

### ***Bathurst Heritage Trades Trail 2018***

Bathurst Heritage Trades Trail is a Bathurst Regional Council initiative supported by a number of community heritage and history groups including Bathurst District Historical Society, Bathurst Heritage Network, The National Trust, Bathurst Bead & Wire Craft Guild, Bathurst Embroidery Guild and the Bathurst Family History Group. It will take place during Bathurst Heritage Week, on the 12th and 13th of May 2018, and will feature heritage trades in a number of heritage buildings and precincts around Bathurst.



It is aimed at increasing public awareness of heritage for locals and visitors. It is a not-for-profit community activity, and venues will be managed and manned by volunteers.

The Heritage Trades concept will be based around a number of heritage locations, each showcasing genuine heritage artisan trades in Bathurst heritage buildings or precincts over two days, as part of Bathurst Heritage Week, Bathurst Autumn Colours and the National Trust Australian Heritage Festival.

The locations planned at this stage are as follows:

1. **Convict Women** - an exhibition with a focus on food and food preparation at Chifley Home – a smaller space, but with the attraction of the house museum of our famous Prime Minister.
2. **Soft trades** - in the 1837 Uniting Church Hall in William Street – a great heritage venue with excellent large space and a full commercial kitchen. Spinning and weaving, crocheting, knitting, embroidery, lacemaking, felting, quilting and other soft trades, including workshops - living heritage.
3. **Restoration trades** - at the 1856 Tremain's Mill eg. pole wood lathe, adze wood shaping, found bush timber furniture, cedar furniture restoration, violin making, decorative joiner, cane furniture restorer, live traditional music and food. Tremain's is a proven event drawcard space in a heritage precinct.
4. **Farm trades** - at the Agricultural Research Farm Square eg. blacksmithing, farrier, wheelwright, winemaking, beekeeping, whips, steam engines, sadler, with a bush BBQ and corn on the cob. The Ag Station is heritage listed by Bathurst Council and has numerous heritage buildings to showcase, including a blacksmiths shop, stables, and (blade) shearing shed.
5. **Wedding Dresses** - at the Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre. A display and workshops concerning Australian wedding dresses and wedding paraphernalia from across two centuries.
6. **Other Venues** may be added.

The concept is that each exhibitor will showcase their skill by actually working on an example so that people can gain an understanding of the trade or craft. They would particularly like to encourage hands-on activities and workshops.

Potential craft/trades people are currently being asked to submit an expression of interest in showcasing their traditional trade or craft skills at one of the elements of "The Trail". The organisers are particularly interested in people who can demonstrate and discuss their trade with the public. There is no charge to demonstrators, and they can sell their products as well without any commission. Exhibitors who only sell their product and do not demonstrate are not encouraged, and will be required to pay a fee to participate, as will food vendors.

The Trail would run from 10.00am to 4.00pm both days, with set up possible on the Friday afternoon immediately before, with dispersal on the Monday morning after.

The organisers would be responsible for all logistics, professional OH&S risk assessment, all set up, running and clean up, portable toilets, small marquees and traffic management.

Marketing is being undertaken extensively, particularly via online and social media channels. The event is intended as a visitor attracting occasion, as well as for engagement with the local community. Marketing and promotion is being carried out by Bathurst Regional Council, and the individual community groups involved. They would encourage demonstrators to promote the event through their Trade or Craft organisation, and their network of contacts. Sharing from Council's Facebook page is a powerful way to spread the word.

The organisers would like to know as soon as possible what facilities and equipment would be needed so that these can be arranged before the event. If you are an Agricultural Trade or an outdoors trade, they would encourage you to bring your own gazebo and tables etc.

The organisers have a tight timetable to bring the event together and they hope you will be able to confirm at an early date. Each venue is organised and managed by a team from Bathurst community groups. Each team is responsible for locating, booking and managing the

talent for their location and bump in/out, and manning their entrance. Some locations will have live traditional music and food. The venues are ticketed as one & sold through Council facilities and on site.

Sandy Bathgate

For any queries contact the organisers at [heritagebathurst@gmail.com](mailto:heritagebathurst@gmail.com)

Facebook and video at [Bathurst Heritage Trades Trail](#) ....

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/c75vg73bn4v8wgl/AABaOngls1JApY\\_2B2eMP\\_zha?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/c75vg73bn4v8wgl/AABaOngls1JApY_2B2eMP_zha?dl=0)

### **PROJECTDOCUMENT: Enquiries/Inquiries - Perspectives on War**

An invitation has been issued to Blue Mountains communities to contribute photographic and written documents from WW2 and post WW2 for inclusion in a significant exhibition *Perspectives on War*, to be held at the Woodford Academy in 2018 and the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, Katoomba during 2019.

The Project is an ongoing research based contemporary art exhibition project situated in the Blue Mountains, NSW. It was established in 2015 by Blue Mountains Artist /Curator Vivienne Dadour to investigate and respond to public and private archives concerning the complexities of identity and place in the Blue Mountains Region, NSW, during WW2 and Post WW2, -to coincide with the 80th year anniversary of the commencement of WW2.



From 2016-17, Dadour extended the project concept to include Blue Mountain artists, writers, historians and local community groups to collaborate in developing work for exhibition that referenced *The Historical Landscape and/or The Political Landscape WW2 and Post WW2*, in the Blue Mountains, NSW.

In 2017 exhibition proposals were accepted by-

1. Woodford Academy, Woodford, NSW.

- *The Woodford Files 1940-50*. May-July 2018.

*The Woodford Files 1940-50* is an exhibition developed in collaboration with Local Blue Mountain Historians that references a collection of handwritten letters from WW2 and located in the Woodford Academy archives. To coincide with Heritage Week a series of artworks by artist Vivienne Dadour that references this collection of letters, will explore the margins of photography and the archive to construct interplay between memory, history, text, and photo/digital imagery, throughout the Academy.

2. Blue Mountains Cultural Centre. Katoomba, NSW.

- *Contemporary Art and War*, August-September 2019.

This exhibition is a collaborative, interdisciplinary, contemporary art project that includes invited Blue Mountain artists, writers, historians and community groups to participate in an exhibition at the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, Katoomba from August-September 2019- coinciding with the 80th year anniversary of the commencement WW2. Invited participants are: Vivienne Dadour visual artist /curator, community collaborator. Anne Graham, conceptual installation artist. Fiona Davies conceptual installation artist. Sean O’Keeffe film maker, visual artist. Chris Tobin, Blue Mountains Indigenous artist and historian. Ken Goodlet, local historian and writer. Various Blue Mountains community groups, individuals and National organizations. E.g., RSL, Red Cross, The Australian Lebanese Historical Society and other groups representing migrants to the Blue Mountains, Blue Mountains Indigenous groups, Women’s land Army and Women Ambulance drivers, Blue Mountain’s Hostels, Factories and Hospitals and Heritage organizations -will be invited to contribute personal WW2 and post WW2 archives/memorabilia for inclusion in the exhibition to form a pictorial wall of remembrance.

Intrinsic to the artistic vision of the project is the facilitation of a deep engagement with the historical and political landscape of the Blue Mountains during WW2 and post WW2. Blue Mountains community members are invited to contribute personal WW2 and post WW2 photographic and written documents for inclusion in the exhibition. Contributions will be copied to form a pictorial display as part of the exhibition within the gallery.

*For further information please contact Vivienne Dadour*

*Email: [research@projectdocument.com.au](mailto:research@projectdocument.com.au)*

*Web: [www.viviennedadour.com](http://www.viviennedadour.com)*

### ***Changing of the guard***

BMACHO would like to offer congratulations to further member groups on the recent election of their new committees.

The incoming committees are comprised as follows:

#### **Springwood Historical Society 2017-18**

President: Peter Chin

Vice-president: Sue Fulton

Secretary: Dick Morony

Treasurer: Sara Matthews

The Executive remains the same as last year.

#### **Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum 2017-18**

Chairman: Henk Luf

Secretary: Ross Stenning

Treasurer: John Carter

Publicity Manager: Keith Ward

Retail Manager: Steve Corrigan

Building Restoration Manager: Dave Grove

Building Services Manager: Ted Dickson

Grounds Maintenance Manager: Stephen Dive

Workshop Manager: Terry Matchett

Membership Officer: Jeff Russell

Large Exhibits Manager: Vacant - (*Henk Luf substituting*)

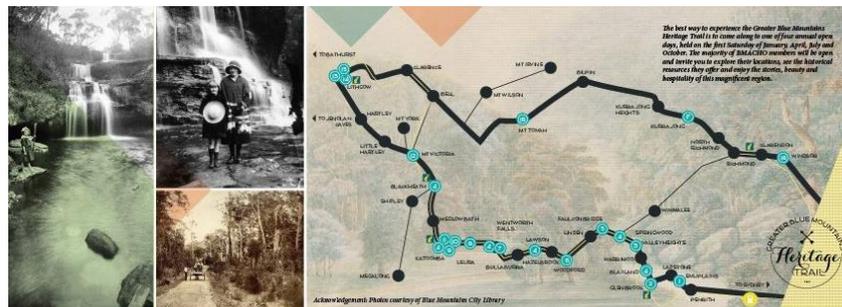
Small Exhibits Curator: Mike Pensini

Model Railway Manager: Ray Beharrell

Perway Manager: Vacant

*Patsy Moppett*

## Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail Update



BMACHO continues to promote the Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail and members' upcoming events. BMACHO have reprinted the Heritage Trail brochure which has now been distributed to visitors' centres across the region. During 2017-18 BMACHO are holding a competition to encourage visitation to Trail participant properties, and the competition entry forms are incorporated into the brochure.

Visitors to any of the participating venues as identified on the Trail brochure can either answer the set-out questions or obtain a stamp showing they have been to a venue. BMACHO will hold a prize draw approximately every six months.

### **So - Heritage with Altitude!!**

The Trail is an ideal activity for the kids and grandkids, be it in the school holidays or any weekend! Collect the Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail brochure with the "Passport Competition and entry form" insert, and discover artifacts with altitude!

Great prizes to be won and the next draw will be in January 2018. Check our website <http://heritagedrive.com.au> for the brochure, form and list of prizes, or collect the brochure and insert from visitor centres at Glenbrook, Katoomba, Lithgow, Clarendon, Bathurst, Oberon, and Orange. Trail participants will also have brochures and forms available. Email [committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au](mailto:committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au) if you would like a brochure and form posted to you.

*If you are a member and you would like further information, or if you would like to become a member, please email the BMACHO Secretary at [committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au](mailto:committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au)*

*For general information about BMACHO and the Trail, see [heritagedrive.com.au](http://heritagedrive.com.au) or [www.facebook.com/GBMHeritageTrail](http://www.facebook.com/GBMHeritageTrail)*

*To find out more about BMACHO visit [www.bluemountainsheritage.com.au](http://www.bluemountainsheritage.com.au)*



## BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

**Registered office:** 1/19 Stypandra Place, Springwood 2777. (02) 4751 5834

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**Website:** [www.bluemountainsheritage.com.au](http://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 and Penrith. 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; Blue Mountains Historical Society; Bygone Beautys Treasured Teapot Museum and Tearooms; City of Lithgow Mining Museum Inc; Colo Shire Family History Group; Eskbank Rail Heritage Centre; Everglades Historic House & Gardens; Glenbrook & District Historical Society Inc; Hartley Valley District Progress Association; Hawkesbury Historical Society Inc; Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society Inc; Leuralla NSW Toy & Railway Museum; Lithgow & District Family History Society Inc; Lithgow Regional Library – Local Studies; 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; Norman Lindsay Gallery and Museum; Paragon Cafe, Katoomba; Scenic World Blue Mountains Limited; Springwood Historical Society Inc; Springwood Historians Inc; Transport Signal Communication Museum Inc; Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum, Woodford Academy Management Committee, Zig Zag Railway Co-op Ltd. The following are individual members: Wendy Blaxland, Fiona Burn, Ray Christison, Dr Wayne Hanley, Associate Professor Ian Jack, Ian Milliss, Patsy Moppett, Keith Painter and Dr Peter Rickwood.

**Committee:** The management committee for 2017-2018 (from March 2017) is: Patsy Moppett (President and *Heritage* Newsletter Editor), Ian Jack (Vice President), Jan Koperberg (Secretary), Philip Hammon (Treasurer), Jan Koperberg (web sites), Dick Morony (Public Officer/Membership Secretary/ Calendar Editor), Suzanne Smith (Events and Venue Co-ordinator), Fiona Burn, Peter Brownlee and Roy Bennett.

Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail sub-committee: Peter Brownlee, Fiona Burn, Jan Koperberg and Suzanne Smith.

Blue Mountains History Conference 2018 sub-committee: Summar Hipworth, Ian Jack, Jan Koperberg and Patsy Moppett.

**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.