

Heritage

*Special Edition Newsletter of the Blue Mountains Association
of Cultural Heritage Organisations Inc*

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Heritage Newsletter - Special Edition BMACHO in Operation

Introduction

From some recent inquiries of BMACHO in regard to its operation, it would appear as though people who have joined organisations in the last few years are not aware of how BMACHO operates. Information does not always filter through, and their own organisations can prove time consuming enough. Involvement in yet another organisation may prove daunting, and further demanding on precious resources.

Some recently asked questions include:

- Are individual members, or organisational members invited as observers to ALL meetings?
- Are the monthly meetings just for the committee?
- Are there regular meetings for members?

Background

Family history groups and historical societies, museums individuals and tourist organisations abound throughout the country, where dedicated members “work” to collect, store and disseminate information about where we came from, how we reached these shores and how Australia developed from a simple colony to the nation we know today. I say “work” because to them it is often not work but a labour of love.

BMACHO commenced in 2006 with the aim “to foster and support cultural heritage activities related to the Blue Mountains and beyond”. The Objects of the Constitution read as follows:

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

BMACHO seeks to take every opportunity to bring together many groups to share information and promote culture and heritage throughout the greater Blue Mountains area and beyond.

Our diverse membership uniquely blends the skills and resources of historical, cultural and heritage groups, major tourist attractions, gardens and galleries. We attempt to promote our collective skills and assets to the widest possible audience.

Meetings

BMACHO do not have their own premises. They have monthly committee meetings, moving amongst our members’ premises for these meetings. These meetings are usually held on the first Friday of the month, in every month but January. We invite members of the host organisation to attend our meeting as observers. We send the Minutes of our committee meetings out to our committee members after they are

approved. For example, at the December meeting, the November meeting minutes will be passed as accurate and correct. The Agenda for each meeting goes out during the week before each meeting to committee members.

We encourage visitors/observers at all meetings, although possibly this has not been made clear in the past. Should members want to discuss any particular matter/s with the committee during the year, they are welcome to join a monthly committee meeting, wherever it is held. Notification to the Secretary should be made to enable inclusion of the matter on the agenda.

An Annual General Meeting is held once a year in March. We will be holding our next AGM in March 2016, a Saturday, and an invitation will be sent out to all Organisational and Individual Members to attend. One item on the agenda will be a review of the Constitution, which will then be available on the BMACHO website soon after the Meeting: www.bluemountainsheritage.com.au

More frequent general meetings have not been held in the past, as the committee felt that member's time was taxed enough already. However, as a result of the abovementioned recent inquiries, BMACHO is considering undertaking more frequent general meetings.

The Committee

The BMACHO committee is made up of both Individual Members and nominated representatives of other organisations and societies. To date the Constitution places a limit of 10 members on the committee. The current committee is as follows:

- Patsy Moppett, President: An Individual Member.
- Ian Jack, Vice-President: An Individual Member and President of Hawkesbury Historical Society.
- Philip Hammon, Treasurer: From Scenic World Katoomba.
- Jan Koperberg, Secretary: From Blue Mountains Family History Society and Blue Mountains Historical Society.
- Wendy Hawkes, committee member: From Eskbank House Lithgow (Lithgow City Council).
- Dick Morony, Membership Secretary, Public Officer, Calendar of Events: From Springwood Historical Society
- Scott Pollock, Webmaster: From Everglades Historic House & Gardens.
- Louise Vining, Marketing: From Bygone Beautys Treasured Teapot Museum at Leura.
- Suzanne Smith, committee member: From Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society.
- Roy Bennett, committee member: From Mt Victoria & District Historical Society.



Committee Meeting



Heritage Trail information day

As can be seen by the committee members above, they all have duties with other organisations and this may be why BMACHO has not held many general meetings, in the past as most of the committee members have duties with other organisations.

Organisations are welcome to consider nominating a member to join the committee when we send out Nomination Forms out in January, six weeks ahead of the AGM. The Forms should be signed by the nominee, signed by two members of the Association and forwarded or emailed to the secretary seven days before the AGM. Organisations are invited to consider one of their members joining the committee to help organise the Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail, the Blue Mountains History Conference, workshops and other projects.

Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail

In light of this the most current initiative is our Heritage Trail project. BMACHO is taking up the challenge and has produced a high quality Heritage Trail leaflet and trail map for distribution through Visitors' Centres, historical societies, family history societies and museums, with contribution from BMACHO members. In addition, a dedicated website which presents the map and detailed contacts, for all BMACHO members, has been developed.

The Heritage Trail incorporates quarterly open days for BMACHO member groups perhaps, proceeding along the Great Western Highway from Emu Plains to Lithgow, and up the Bells Line of Road from the Hawkesbury to Lithgow. If visitors can see the premises open on the Common Open Days, they can plan a trail that is comfortable for them to travel in a day. Not every member group has premises, but those without have been able to use a hall or library to facilitate visitors. Even if a member is not able to participate in the Common Open Days, they have listed their opening hours on the leaflet. The brochure will be reviewed every couple of years.

Funding for the Trail was generated through the Westpac Group's Natural Disaster Recovery Grant 2014. The launch of the project took place in September 2015, with the first open day being held on the October long weekend 2015. The next open day is scheduled for 2 January 2016.



Trail launch September 2015

Louise Markus MP, Richard Wadick Westpac, Patsy Moppett BMACHO, Trish Doyle MP

HERITAGE Newsletter

In the meantime, BMACHO will continue to collect and share information and events through the *HERITAGE* Newsletter. News items are always welcome, from the smallest note to articles in the order of 1500 words. Photographs will always help to illustrate the story and should be sent as separate files. Please direct any items to the editor pmoppett@gmail.com or to the secretary jkoperberg@bigpond.com

So what's in it for you, in becoming a member of BMACHO?

1. Membership of a well-respected cultural heritage organization.

2. Low membership fees.
3. Opportunities for membership as an organization, or as an individual with particular background/skills/expertise to share.
4. Opportunities for networking through:
 - Workshops and seminars.
 - Bi-annual Conference.
 - AGM & Committee meetings (visitors always welcome).
 - BMACHO links to outside organizations on the BMACHO database.
5. Opportunities to promote your organization as a member of BMACHO:
 - Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail, Open Days, brochure and associated web site.
 - Regular email distribution from the Committee.
 - BMACHO website.
 - BMACHO on Facebook.
 - The bi-monthly *HERITAGE* Newsletter.
6. Opportunities to read about, research and learn about history and heritage:
 - Publication of the annual Blue Mountains Journal.
 - Publication of Occasional Papers.
 - The bi-monthly *HERITAGE* Newsletter.
 - Workshops and seminars.

Feedback

Feedback from members and the public is always welcome in regard to the functions and activities of the association, as these comments will enable the association to remain current, relevant and useful in its attempts to carry out its stated aims, in assisting member organisations.

The Committee

Blue Mountains Association of Cultural and Heritage Organisations