

Heritage

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Martin Francis Zobel

Miner, geologist, engineer and bushman

The name appears frequently as an aside to many mining pursuit writings on industry in the Blue Mountains and in the Central West of NSW. But who was this man?

Martin Francis Zobel was born in 1861, in Bavaria, Germany. He arrived in Australia in 1886. In 1899 he married Sarah Jane Simpson at Sunny Corner. Sarah was born in 1876 at Hartley, to John & Eliza Jane Simpson. At his naturalization in 1907 Zobel declared he was a mine manager. Martin & Sarah lived at Sunny Corner, Mount Victoria and Newnes, and later in life moved to Shaftsbury Road, Burwood (1933) in Sydney. They had four children – Victoria (1903), Linda (1906), Bavaria (1908) and Phillip (1912), all born at Lithgow.

Martin was a miner, a geologist and a mining engineer. At his death in 1935 his obituary paid tribute to a man who was a prominent figure and pioneer in the shale industry of Australia.

He had a reputation for capacity and probity, he was an accomplished bushman, blazing a trail from Newnes Junction to the Wolgan Valley. In plotting the subsequent railway line surveyors largely followed his route. He was shy regarding his achievements but was a popular and well-respected man.

He first made his mark in the Blue Mountains/Lithgow region in the early 20th century, first at Sunny Corner, and then at Wolgan (Newnes).



The spectacular Newnes Valley



Sunny Corner mine site

However, prior to this he was involved in a number of mining pursuits further out in the Central West of NSW, which seemed to lead him into financial difficulty.

In 1897 Zobel was involved in a court case at Cadia, near Orange, in regard to mining on private property. Zobel had challenged Thomas Croudace, manager of the Scottish Australian Mining Company, who were mining a property for copper. Zobel claimed they had driven tunnels, sunk shafts and constructed water races on his claim, and they had ejected Zobel from the land. Zobel claimed he had a miner's right to enter the land to search for gold, he had defined the land he wanted and applied for and received a miner's right for an

area of some 20 acres. Zobel claimed Croudace had wrongly entered this land. The land was held freehold by the Scottish Australian Mining Association, and as such Croudace had entered. In 1899 an objection was sustained, and the application was struck out.

In 1900 Zobel appeared to be facing the Bankruptcy Court. In April creditor Thomas Croudace sought to serve a petition on Zobel, only to find that Zobel had left for Woodlark Island. The petition was then served on Zobel's solicitor by 4th May.

Zobel had been appointed assistant to mine manager Mr Webster at Woodlark and sailed from Australia in March 1900. Woodlark Island Proprietary GN Company NL, British New Guinea were working an area of land of 94 acres, and leases had been settled to mine for gold. Thomas Griffiths, a member of the Board, went with Zobel to Woodlark to consult with the manager and determine operations, developments and the different requirements. Woodlark Island had a history of gold mining going as far back as the late 1800's. Old records show significant gold production from the island before World War II. A large part of the Woodlark Island mining lease was logged for ebony in the 1970's.



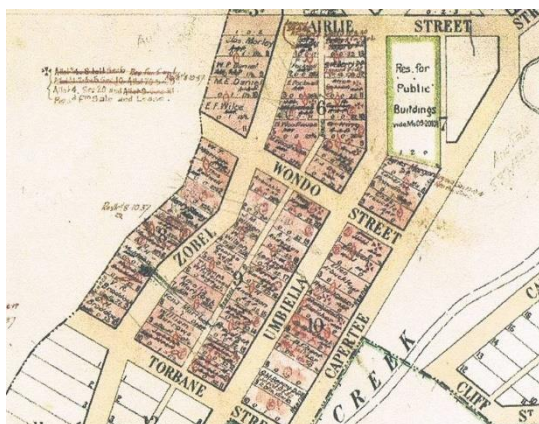
Woodlark Island mine

In 1906 Zobel was back in Australia and underwent his naturalization ceremony. At this time the development of Newnes was in its early days. Zobel applied to become assistant to the manager Mr D A Sutherland, who had constructed the railway and established the works. Zobel also became estate agent for the Commonwealth Oil Corporation, in the establishment of the private town of Newnes. Mr John Fell took over in 1912 and Zobel remained as his assistant, as well as traffic manager, until the operations ceased in 1922.

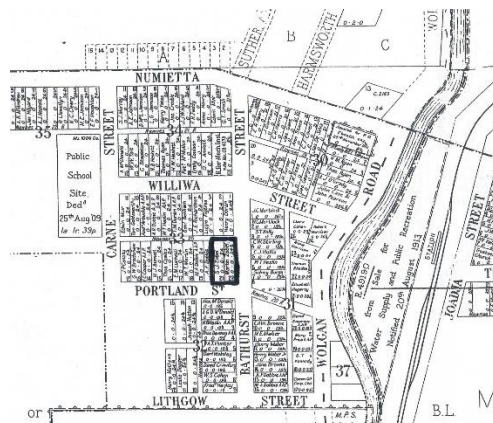
In 1907 Zobel became entrenched in another court case, that of George Gander v Andrew Murray & Martin Zobel, with regard to the Mount Bulga copper mine near Orange. Zobel claimed to be trustee for himself & Murray. The situation became complicated between the three property interests, Murray, Gander and Zobel. Murray sold his interests to Gander & Zobel. Gander then wanted to sell, but Zobel said he had no right. The suit against Zobel was dismissed with costs.

In 1909 Certificate of Title records Zobel's purchase of Lot 22, Section 33 within the Village of Newnes in 1909. This title records his occupation as mine manager. The adjoining Lot 21 was purchased in his wife's name, the lots being on the corner of Portland and Bathurst Streets. Such was Zobel's influence on the development of the town that one of the nearby unformed roads in Village of Newnes was named Zobel Street.

Zobel also had at least a lease over Portion 2, Mineral Lease 12, Parish of Glen Alice and Gindantherie, the records showing he held it as agent for the Commonwealth Oil Corporation Ltd.



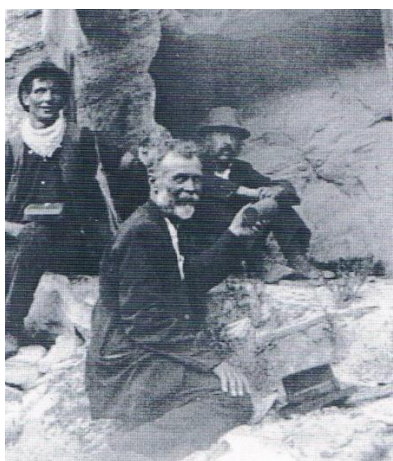
Zobel Street



Lots 21, 22 Section 33

In 1913 he was recorded as mining for coal and shale at Portion 1, Ph Hartley, a portion of some 160 acres. This was in the vicinity of Berghoffer's Pass/Mount Victoria Pass. By 1923 he was looking for chert as well and living at Mt Victoria.

In 1919 the Lithgow Council was seeking desperate measures due to lack of rain and the failure of the town water supply. Temporary measures were sought, and water restrictions were in place.



Martin Zobel, centre



Martin Zobel on left

The Lithgow Mercury newspaper contacted Zobel, who was known as *"a capable engineer, but one who probably knows more about the country in the vicinity of Newnes and the valley generally than any other man in the State"*. They wished to ascertain whether any springs were suitable from which water might be pumped temporarily. Zobel did know the country well, and suggested pumping from Paddy's Creek, a mile from Lithgow's reservoirs, where pipes could be easily laid, and he offered the use of the Commonwealth Oil Corporation's railway if needed. The source apparently was known to have a good flow of water which never ran dry and would be sufficient for a temporary arrangement.

In 1925 the Commonwealth Oil Corporation was applying for a 6 month suspension of the labour conditions of its leases at Newnes. Zobel, the mining engineer, acted for the company. New processes were proposed and capital to be raised, and a new plant constructed at Clyde to work with Newnes. As the capital was not yet available, they needed time to raise the capital, hence the suspension of the conditions.

Zobel featured in the development of the chert industry at Mount Victoria and was a member of The Mount Victoria Timber and Metal Syndicate and later a shareholder in the Chert Road Metal and Timber Company Ltd. In 1925 Zobel also acted for the Grose Valley Development Syndicate, for suspension of a lease to Ernest Williamson to enable a 25 mile long railway to

be built through the Grose Valley to work a mine and dam. Zobel was an associate of Williamson's.

Williamson had grand ideas for the valley, although acknowledging it as a scenic tourist attraction, but thinking more in terms of mining, railways and roads, power and townships. Zobel was to identify a railway route, across Linden Creek and across Faulconbridge Ridge to the Grose Road, which would have involved a significant number of bridges. Zobel and a crew commenced constructing a track through the Grose. However, nothing became of the plan and the lease was suspended until further investigation could supposedly be undertaken.

In 1927, five claims were lodged for sites at Newnes by Zobel as manager for John Fell for the COC, the leases were staked, and possession taken. This involved some 957 acres, by Zobel manager to John Fell. Subsequently the leases were cancelled and the land granted to John Fell. His proposed use of the land was for a railway, works depots and storage, dwellings, dam site and reservoir.

The Commonwealth Oil Corporation subsequently gave over to the Shale Oil Development Committee in 1931. At its inception the Committee turned to Zobel for advice on



Steps to manager's residence, Newnes



Railway alignment, approach to Penrose Gorge

reconditioning the railway track. Operations were recommenced at Newnes, with Zobel as the official in charge of future operations. Arriving in Lithgow in August 1931, Zobel arranged for reconditioning of the private rail line from Newnes Junction to the Wolgan Valley, and the rail motor for use on that line to be put into commission.

Along with the unformed street in Newnes, several other features of the landscape around the town were named for Martin Zobel – Zobel's Gully, Zobel's Ledge, Zobel's Pass, Zobel's Point and Zobel's Spur.

Zobel and his family had moved to Shaftsbury Road, Burwood by 1933, where he died in 1935 aged 74 years. Sarah died in 1961 at Ashfield.

Patsy Moppett

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Food for thought Editor's note

The future of heritage in NSW: since the recent State election, and gathering together some of the latest information floating around in the media, and on government and public websites, we find the following:

The NSW government will abolish key agencies including the Office of Local Government and the Office of Environment and Heritage under sweeping changes to the structure of the NSW public service. Roads and Maritime Services and Jobs NSW will also cease to exist as independent entities.

A memo from the Department of Premier and Cabinet revealed the Office of Local Government, along with the Office of Environment and Heritage, will cease to be independent agencies and their functions will be absorbed by a new planning and industry cluster.

The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) between April 2011 and July 2019, was responsible for the care and protection of the environment and heritage, which included the natural environment, and Aboriginal and European culture and heritage.

Until its abolition in 2019, the OEH will have supported the community, business and government in protecting, strengthening and making the most of a healthy environment and economy within the state, also managing national parks and reserves.

Following the 2019 State election, the functions of the agency have been assumed by the new Department of Planning and Industry, with effect from 1 July 2019.

Until its 2019 abolition, the Chief Executive of the Office of Environment and Heritage was Anthony Lean, who was reporting to the previous Minister for the Environment and Heritage, the Hon. Gabrielle Upton, MP.

The former department was responsible for:

- management of flora and fauna.
- promotion of environmentally sustainable consumption and production.
- protection of the state's cultural heritage, particularly Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- regulation of air and water quality, noise, chemicals, radiation and waste disposal.

The Berejiklian government has sought to reassure staff and the public that the dissolution of the Office of Environment and Heritage won't compromise the independence and services provided. Fears by OEH staff that their roles were being made redundant were fanned by a statement sent by Treasury Secretary Tim Reardon telling staff the office would cease to be an independent entity and its functions would "*transition back*" into a broader Planning and Industry cluster.

Premier Gladys Berejiklian defended the dissolution of OEH, noting heritage would be shifted to the Arts portfolio headed by Don Harwin as minister. Environment would have "*a prominent place within Planning to make sure every decision we take considers the environment whether it's the urban context or the regional [one]*," the Premier told journalists after her new ministry was sworn in. "*Along with energy, it will be a key focus of the government*," she said, adding the Environment Protection Authority would be given "*more grunt*".

A government spokeswoman said the restructuring would enable the administration "*to better serve the people of NSW*". "*For the first time, we have a combined Energy and Environment portfolio and this new structure will ensure the government can take a holistic approach to this issue*," she said. "*The functions currently performed by OEH will continue*."

Critics suggest that this change will shrink the status of the Office of Environment and Heritage further and appears designed to reduce it to a back office function of enabling development.

A posting on the NSW Government Gazette confirmed that the legislative powers for environment, heritage and local government had been transferred from the relevant ministers to the minister to the Premier and minister for planning.

"The dramatic changes disempower these Ministers from having any official role in the administration of key legislation in their areas including under the Protection of the Environmental Acts, the Heritage Act and the Local Government Act," Greens MP David Shoebridge said.

It is suggested that the structure of the public service will now incorporate the following clusters: Stronger Communities, Customer Service, Health; Premier and Cabinet, Transport, Treasury and Education.

The following clusters will cease to exist by 1 July 2019: Finance, Services & Innovation; Industry; Planning & Environment; Family and Communities; and Justice. Readers would be advised to contact their State government representatives to clarify any fears and doubts they may have.

Only time will tell how this will pan out, and how effectively powers to preserve and conserve heritage and the environment will be maintained.

Official Openings at Blackheath - Tracks, Lookouts, Reserves & Monuments

Many Blue Mountains walking tracks, lookouts, reserves and associated monuments have had official openings, beginning with the Govetts Leap track in 1899. Premiers and Governors of New South Wales and State and Federal Members of Parliament have officiated at events as well as local citizens. At least three were opened by women, while at several others, wives assisted their husbands in the ceremonies. One lookout was opened by the person it was named after.

I do a lot of research using *Trove*, the search facility provided by the National Library of Australia for digitised newspapers, Government Gazettes and other resources. Some people like “tagging” items, but I like making lists. One of my lists is called “*Blue Mountains Official Openings tracks, lookouts, monuments, etc.*”, which currently has 239 items.

With the *Trove* list as a starting point I have compiled the following list relating to Blackheath, arranged in chronological order. I have started with Blackheath as it had the first recorded track openings - in fact, three of the first four:

1899 - Govetts Leap Track, Blackheath

This track, which starts near Govetts Leap Lookout and ends at the bottom of Govetts Leap (the waterfall), was opened on 25 February 1899 by Hon. James Henry Young (Minister for Public Works), assisted by Hon. Joseph Cook, Minister for Mines and Agriculture and MLA for the district (later to be Prime Minister). The ceremony and a banquet were held “*at two specially prepared ledges about 400 feet [120 metres] below the level of the spot where the Leap-road terminates*” with about 70 people present. This location was about half-way down.



JH Young,
Daily Telegraph 3 August 1894

Representatives of the Sydney Morning Herald, Daily Telegraph, Evening News, Lithgow Mercury and Mountaineer were present. After the ceremony some members of the party, including Mr Young's daughter (unknown name — there were at least six daughters), walked down to the bottom of the waterfall. At the ceremony it was reported that “*For a long time, it was considered impracticable to form a track, except at immense cost, but two local gentlemen, Messrs. Rodriguez and Daly, resolved to make the attempt. They secured the services of a practical miner, named Williams, and in a few months a path (in many places hewn out of the solid rock) was made.*” The track was constructed by Tom Williams and his son Samuel at a cost of £140. They started work in May 1898 and finished in January 1899. On 28 January, Williams was presented “*with a suitably inscribed silver medal*”. It was suggested that the track should be “*called Williams' Track*”. (Williams Lookout, a small lookout below Govetts Leap Lookout was named after Tom and Samuel by Brian Fox in 1999.)

1900 - Rodriguez Pass, Blackheath

The Rodriguez Pass track (from the bottom of Govetts Leap to Evans Lookout), was opened at a “*summer house*” somewhere along the track, in the presence of about 40 people, on 21 April 1900 by Hon. J. H. Young, former Minister for Public Works. (It was to have been opened by the Premier, W. J. Lyne, but he was delayed at a Premiers Conference.) Another reference said, “*A banquet was held in a temporary kiosk at the foot of the [Govetts Leap]*

falls". Mr Young said he "understood the track was to be called the Rodriguez pass, and thus he would christen it".

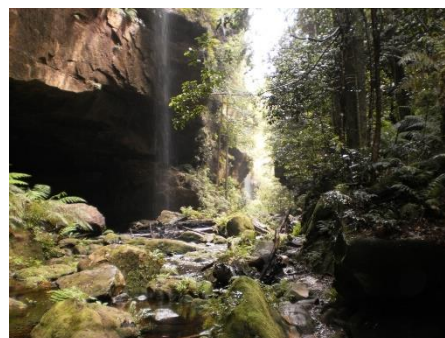


TR Rodriguez,
Sydney Mail, 12 May 1900

The Pass was named after Tomas Ramon Rodriguez, who came to Blackheath as Station Master in 1889. Tomas was *"instrumental in the creation of the route to the bottom of Govetts Leap and ... the pass from Govetts Leap to Evans Lookout that now bears his name, and ... the track through the Grand Canyon"*. Rodriguez Pass was constructed by John Cliff in 1899-1900. It cost £270. The opening party left Blackheath in coaches about 9.30am. They walked down the Govetts Leap track, had the ceremony and luncheon at the summer house and then continued to the top of the pass (at Evans Lookout) where *"the beautiful ladies of Blackheath were waiting to refresh the travellers with cups of tea and delicious cakes"*. The last of the party arrived at the top at 6.45pm - *"at dusk, and fires were built to light the way for the latecomers"*.

1907 - The Grand Canyon, Blackheath

The Grand Canyon track (Walls Cave to The Fernery on Rodriguez Pass) was opened on 16 February 1907 by Hon. Joseph Carruthers, NSW Premier. He was accompanied by a daughter (probably Ida Mary who was about 25 years old). They and a party of 50 traversed the Canyon in a five-mile (8km) walk, commencing by walking to Walls Cave. Lunch and the opening ceremony were conducted at the Fernery, near the junction of Rodriguez Pass and the Grand



J Carruthers,
Daily Telegraph, 3 August 1894

Canyon track. Mr Carruthers *"expressed great pleasure in declaring the Blackheath Grand Canyon open"*. He said, *"... it gave him very great pleasure to be one of the first party to negotiate a passage through the devious and romantic pass of Blackheath Grand Canyon"*. The contractor for the track, completed in December 1906, was Tom Williams, who had made the Govetts Leap track. *"For some weeks a gang of men had been engaged making the track, which necessitated the building of many causeways, the construction of rude ladders, chipping of innumerable steps in the sandstone rock, and even boring a tunnel or two through the rock."* After leaving Walls Cave the opening party *"had to proceed in Indian file along the creek which is crossed a great number of times in going through the canyon. ...*

Gradually the gorge became narrower, and at points the rocks, 200 or 300 feet overhead, appeared almost to meet, and to leave the party in semi-darkness below. At other points the path went high up on the rocks and wound round precipices which needed very careful walking, and in one case it passed through a small tunnel." "... the new pass ... is considerably over four miles in length, rugged enough for anything, and follows the creek from the Cave to the Fernery, at the foot of the path leading to Evans' Lookout. ... Having reached Fern Bower after a three hours' walk—with only an occasional halt for a refreshing draught from the limpid stream, or to get a snapshot photo in some picturesque glen—the party, which included several ladies, tired and hungry, sat down and were soon regaled with an appetising luncheon. ... Lunch over, the following toasts were disposed of, and before the ascent was entered upon two or three photos were taken of the group by the Misses Trotter ...” On reaching Evans Lookout the party found that “several ladies of Blackheath had prepared afternoon tea and that a crowd of over two hundred persons had assembled”. The last activity was the taking of “a photo of the Premier, Miss Carruthers, and the five trustees—Messrs. Neate, Laws, Rodriguez, Doyle, and Field”.

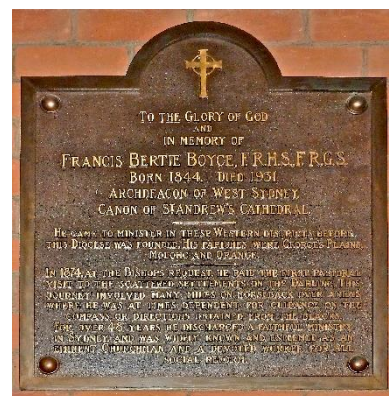
1915 - Hargraves Lookout, Shipley

Hargraves Lookout at the southern end of the Shipley plateau, was opened by Councillors of the Blue Mountains Shire on 17 March 1915. “A new sight of exceptional beauty and grandeur was opened at Blackheath by the councillors of the Blue Mountains Shire. The members of the Blackheath New Sights Committee accompanied the councillors. The new sight is probably one of the most extensive on the Blue Mountains.” Councillors in attendance included Cr J. T. Wall (the President), Cr Green and Cr Walker. “Members of the Blue Mountains Shire visited Blackheath today for the purpose of inspecting the new beauty spots, which have been opened up owing to the vigilance of the New Sights Committee. The new lookout at the end of Shipley Road, which gives a magnificent view of the Kanimbla Valley, was the main point of interest. At this spot the councillors were entertained at luncheon by members of the committee. ... The lookout opens up one of the finest valley views on the Mountains ... At present the spot has not been named, but it is suggested that it be called Hargrave's Lookout, to perpetuate the name of the father of Blackheath, who discovered 30 years ago the neck of land on which the lookout is erected.” The account in the *Blue Mountain Echo* adds, “... the members were present at the opening of what promises to be one of Blackheath's greatest attractions—the new lookout at the end of Shipley road”. And that the councillors “were entertained at a dainty al fresco luncheon by the ladies of Blackheath”. Blackheath's New Sights Committee spent £140 on making the track to the lookout. The Lookout was named after William Henry Hargraves, NSW Deputy Registrar in Equity, who has been described as “the father of Blackheath”. William was the second son of Edward Hargraves, the man credited with the discovery of gold in Australia. William Hargraves was “one of the first settlers at Blackheath and Medlow, where he constructed weekend residences”. Another report says: “In 1878 Mr. Hargraves became a resident of the Blue Mountains. He owned part of the property at Medlow afterwards bought by Mr. Mark Foy to build the Hydro, and the beautiful pine trees about the place and at Blackheath, were planted by his hands. he grew the first fruit on the mountains, and was able to send an exhibit to the Sydney Exhibition in 1879.” He discovered “the neck of land on which Hargraves Lookout was erected”.

1923- Mount Boyce Reserve, Mount Boyce

This Reserve near Blackheath was opened on Thursday 26 April by NSW Governor, Sir Walter Davidson. His wife Dame Margaret accompanied him. Ald. W. Laws, president of the Blackheath Sights Reserves, said: “In naming that newly-acquired reserve Mt. Boyce, the town was conferring a well-deserved honor on the Venerable Archdeacon Boyce who had grown up with the township during the past 40 years”. Dame Margaret cut the ribbon across the road and Sir Walter declared the reserve open. Archdeacon Francis Bertie Boyce “thanked the trustees for the honor done him”. The reserve, 1,090 metres high with a view of 65 kilometres on a clear day, is the highest point on the Great Western Highway. For many years Archdeacon Boyce had a holiday home in Blackheath and was well-known in the

community.



Archdeacon FB Boyce,
Daily Pictorial, 3 September 1930

After the death of Archdeacon Boyce in 1931, a memorial obelisk was erected. It was unveiled by Sir Philip Game, Governor of NSW, on 21 October before 200 people. *"The obelisk will be 11 feet 6 inches [3.5m] high, of white Paddington sandstone, and will bear two granite panels inset, inscribed as follows:—"Mount Boyce, the highest point on the Great Western-road, was so named at the request of the trust by his Excellency Sir Walter Davidson, K.C.M.G., in honour of the Ven. Archdeacon Boyce, F.R.G.S., F.R.H.S., born 1844, died 1931, an eminent churchman, a great citizen, a man of wide vision, was unveiled by his Excellency Air Vice-Marshal Sir Philip Game, G.B.E., K.C.B., D.S.O., 21st October 1931."* (The first plaque has "3573 FT" after "Mount Boyce".) There is also a Direction Dial on a sandstone plinth which was probably erected sometime after the mid-1940s as it has a memorial plate to Hon. Mr. Justice Francis Stewart Boyce, one of Archdeacon Boyce's sons. Justice Boyce died on 27 June 1940.

1929 - Mount Blackheath Lookout, Shipley

The lookout was declared open on 26 January 1929 by Hon. Richard Thomas Ball, Minister for Lands, before a *"large and representative gathering of local residents"*. Mr Ball was advertised as being accompanied by his wife, also Mr Hamilton Knight, Local Member of Parliament, and Mr Ben Chifley, the newly-elected member for Macquarie (later to be Prime Minister), and Mrs Chifley. *"The Blackheath Mountain reserve is situated in the district known locally as Shipley and is about five miles [8km] by road from the Blackheath railway station. On a clear day it is possible to see from the new point of vantage the whole of the Kanimbla Valley, the entrance to the Burragorang Valley, Mount Boyd and Mount Victoria, and the Great Dividing Range."*

1935 - Panorama Point, Shipley, and Pulpit Rock, Blackheath

These two lookouts and associated tracks were opened on 14 December 1935 by Hon. E. A. Buttenshaw, Minister for Lands.

"The Pulpit Rock, 'looks back over Govetts Leap, and 'Panorama Point,' overlooks Megalong Valley".

The ceremony at Pulpit Rock was scheduled for 2.45pm, followed by another at Panorama Point at 3.35pm. The second ceremony included naming the lookout, which is 300 metres beyond Hargraves Lookout. Pulpit Rock Lookout has six viewing points. The plaque was erected in 1939.



Pulpit Rock#1 over Megalong



Cairn at Pulpit Rock#2



Pulpitt Rock#2 in Grose Valley

1934 - *Rodriguez Memorial, Blackheath*

A memorial to Tomas Ramon Rodriguez was unveiled on Saturday 10 March 1934 in the centre of the Blackheath Gardens. Justice Boyce presided at the event and Cr Percy Wilson, President of the Blue Mountains Shire, unveiled the monument. Rodriguez had been a great leader in the community for many years. The Progress Association, the Sights Trust and the Blackheath Municipal Council, were some of the organisations he worked hard with. Justice Boyce recalled *"a press report of 1900 which described him as 'the vital spark of Blackheath'"*. The memorial was a red granite sundial designed by Rowan Lowry. Messrs C. A. Wadson and Paterson were involved in the construction. The column was made of Balmoral Red Granite imported from Finland and the sundial cast in bronze. Unfortunately, by 2004 the bronze sundial had disappeared.

1938 - *William Romaine Govett Memorial, Blackheath*

On 3 September 1938 a Memorial to William Romaine Govett was unveiled at Govetts Leap by Hon. Colin A. Sinclair, Minister for Lands. Govett was an assistant surveyor, working under Major Thomas Mitchell, Surveyor-General of NSW, and is credited with the discovery of Govetts Leap — leap being a Scottish word for waterfall. Over 100 people attended the ceremony. Mr Sinclair said, *"the obelisk he was to unveil was a fitting memorial to men of such indomitable pluck as Surveyor Govett. ... The Minister then unveiled the obelisk, which stands nearly six feet [1.83m] high, and is built of stone from the valley. The work was carried out by the two rangers (Messrs. Len Cullen and 'Mick' Boyd)." The memorial has two marble tablets built into it, one relating to Govett's discovery and the other to the unveiling.*

1946- *George Phillips Lookout, Blackheath*

The George Phillips Lookout, near Govetts Leap, was officially opened on Monday 28 January 1946 by Mr George Phillips, after whom it was named. Phillips was a *"builder and contractor, Blackheath Council Alderman and member of the [Blackheath Group] Blue Mountains Sights and Reserves Trust"*. The wording on the sign in the accompanying photo is now on a plaque at the lookout. The occasion was also used for the Mayor of Blackheath, Ald. J. R. W. King, to officially name Bradshaw Point, Luchetti Lookout, Boyd's Beach and Churchill Bridge. The lookout is now accessed from the Fairfax Heritage Track.

Keith Painter

References are available upon request from the writer: kpainter@bigpond.net.au

Photographs (except Pulpit Rock Cairn) inserted by P Moppett

The Borie

In many countries across Europe, and especially those of Celtic nature, dry stone walls are a feature of the landscape from early times.

A wide scale campaign of land clearing and cultivation that took place in the 18th century in France, following a 1766 royal edict, resulted in masses of stones being extracted from the ground to make way for new fields complete with dry stone walls, and huts (bories).

Pottery shards found in the huts and fields during restoration work carried out on some of these structures in the 1970s were characteristic of the earthenware manufactured in the Apt, Vaucluse, region in the 18th-19th centuries.

Around the 18th and early 19th centuries, farmers and shepherds built everything from small stone huts (bories) up to complete farm complexes using this method.

A borie is a dry-stone structure, generally a one-room cabin. The smallest can be a single, low room where a shepherd might weather a storm or a cold night. The single room borie is big enough to stand upright in, with space for a fire and often a shelf or two built into the thick stone walls. Larger bories could have multiple rooms.



The bories of France

The basic reason for building bories was to clear the stones from the fields. There could be a lot of stone to clear, and rather than just make an enormous pile, something useful was created. This is also the basis of drystone walling. The land was often barren of good timber and stone was plentiful. They were labor-intensive constructions, and became agricultural buildings used on a seasonal basis, built using locally extracted limestone slabs, going by the name of “*lauses*” or “*clapes*”.



The bories of France

The borie structure may be ancient, but the name is late 19th century. The word “*borie*” originates from an 18th-century place name – “*Les Borrys*”, in the Bouches-du-Rhône département of France. In the 1809 land register, these drystone huts were referred to as “*cabane*” (when intact and still in use) and “*sol de cabane*” (when deserted and/or derelict). The drystone construction can be seen in the hills throughout the Beyond region of France, and in what is now the Alpes Maritimes. Bories have been dated back to the Ligurians, from roughly 600 BC up to Roman times. In the Languedoc-Roussillon region of southern France, these same stone structures are called “*capitelles*”. The Luberon region is also famous for its interesting bories, which date back to about the 13th century. In the Alpes-Maritimes, shepherds still use them in the hills above Vence and Grasse.

In the rocky landscape of the bories, thick stone walls can sometimes be found nearby that have no apparent purpose, where the walls are only a few meters apart, sometimes running to 4 to 5 meters wide and only 10 or 20 meters long. They may have been stock pens and or races associated with the borie, but either construction served to utilise the stone, and free up the field for cropping.

Such dry-stone huts can be found all over the world, including Corsica, Crete, Death Valley in California, Italy, Mexico, Malta, Peru, the Sinai, Switzerland, Turkey and Yugoslavia. To examine a similar such construction in Malta, this corbelled stone hut is perhaps the most primitive vernacular structure in the Maltese landscape. It is basically a single room erected using undressed un-plastered stone, with the aim of providing shelter for farmers and herdsmen and/or their livestock. The “*girna*” is generally very small, with the external wall



The Maltese girna



A modern version

usually being circular, though in rare cases it can also be square, rectangular or oval-shaped. The convex-shaped roof is covered with fragments of rotten rock, stone and sand. It usually has a single entrance facing east, in order to get as much sunlight as possible, and generally has no windows. The stone used to build the girna is found in the vicinity of the site and usually uses loose coralline limestone. The huts are built without having any foundations but are still quite solid as this solidity depended on the skillful laying of the stones. Often the corbelled stone-huts of Italy and Malta are flat-roofed, as the rest have conical roofs. One must appreciate the need for these simple, yet also intricately constructed shelters, in that farmers would not only use them as shady resting places during the summer, but also as shelter for their livestock during the rainy season. They could also serve as a place of storage for crops, or else to dry certain kinds of fruit and vegetables before selling them at the market, like figs, tomatoes or carobs. Each country or origin will have developed particular features built into their huts suited to the climate and landscape of that place. Many ancient bories have been used well into modern times, or more modern but identical versions have been built either for farm use, as follies, or as accommodation cabins.

Patsy Moppett

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The Technical Side

Fibro – the wonder building material!

Due to necessity during World War II to make sturdy, inexpensive military housing, and combined with an acute post-war rental housing shortage, the increased use of one of the wonder products of the twentieth century occurred, “*fibro*”. Entire suburbs in the post-war building boom were largely constructed of fibro, creating “*fibro belts*” in all Australian cities. Advertised as a fireproof alternative to other roofing materials such as asphalt, asbestos cement roofs were popular not only for safety but also for affordability. Due to asbestos cement’s imitation of more expensive materials such as wood siding and shingles, brick, slate, and stone, the product was marketed as an affordable renovation

material. Asbestos cement was usually formed into flat or corrugated sheets but could be molded into any shape wet cement could fit. Other types of fibro include "Tilux" wet area sheeting, water and draining pipes, and moulded products.

With a shortage of building materials after the end of World War II, fibro became an expression of the Australian identity, and was the wonder building material of the 1950s and 1960s - inexpensive, durable and ubiquitous.

At the peak of the 1950s housing boom, one-third of new homes were constructed of fibro with timber frames and corrugated fibro or iron roofs. In addition, building contractors and owner-builders found that it was easy to extend or renovate a fibro house and although considered a little low class, one big advantage of fibro was that it was fire-resistant. With fibro or timber strap work covering the joins, fibro was popular for houses, garages, sheds and shops and was painted in pastel colours of cream, baby blue, green, pink or white. While the health risks of working with fibro due to asbestos are well known now, back in the day the only drawback to a fibro home was that it did not insulate as well as brick, and the rooms were freezing in winter!

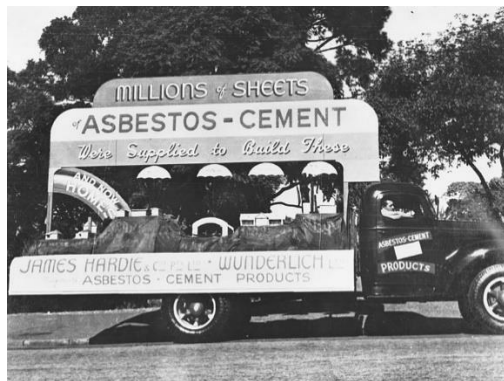
The name fibro or fibrolite is short for "fibrous cement sheet", more commonly called "asbestos cement sheet" or "AC sheet". It is a building material in which asbestos fibres are used to reinforce thin rigid cement sheets.

History

In Europe, many forms were historically used for cement sheets, while the US leaned more on conservative materials due to labor and production costs. Although fibro was used in a number of countries, it was in Australia and New Zealand where its use was the most widespread.

Friable asbestos products have been commonly used in commercial and industrial settings in Britain since the late 1800s for fireproofing, soundproofing and insulation. Some friable products were also used in houses and may still be found in houses built before 1990.

Fibro was first used as a building material in Australia in the early 1900s, being imported from England. The first manufacturing plant in Australia was established by a company called Wunderlich in Sydney in 1916. A year later another company, James Hardie & Co, also opened a plant in Sydney. Both Wunderlich and James Hardie actively promoted the use of asbestos cement in housing.



Early days

Most of these houses were modest and unassuming, small and informal in plan rather than large and grand. They were often owner-designed and owner-built, over many weekends. Fibro did not corrode, it was cheap, easy to transport, easy to cut to size, lightweight, and easy to work with.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that many houses were also constructed as holiday houses or weekenders, and in some cases were built by the owners themselves. This meant cost and simplicity were primary factors in the construction of these houses, making fibro the popular material it became.

In Australia, asbestos cement materials first manufactured in the 1920s, and were commonly used in the manufacture of residential building materials from the mid 1940s until the late

1980s. During the 1980s asbestos cement materials were phased out in favour of asbestos-free products. From 31 December 2003, the total ban on manufacture, use, reuse, import, transport, storage or sale of all forms of asbestos came into force.



*The affordable "Australian dream"....
...together with the obligatory water tank and rotary clothes line!*

The use of fibro that contains asbestos has been banned in several countries, including Australia, although as recently as 2016, the material has been discovered in new components sold for construction projects.

Fibre cement sheet is still readily available, but the reinforcing fibres are now cellulose rather than asbestos. However, the name "*fibro*" is still applied to it for traditional reasons.

The Risks

Authorities recommend taking strong precautions with asbestos materials, due to their brittleness, high asbestos content, and deterioration on exposure to weather.

As a general rule, the Australian Department of Health suggest that:

- If constructed before the mid-1980s it is highly likely that the building has asbestos-containing products.
- If between the mid-1980s and 1990 it is likely that it has asbestos containing products.
- With construction after 1990 it is unlikely that the building has asbestos-containing products.

The vast majority of asbestos-containing products used in houses were bonded asbestos cement materials, including roofing, shingles and siding (villaboard and similar), exterior and interior wall cladding, eaves, fencing, thermal boards around fireplaces, and water or flue pipes.

Fibro is a type of bonded asbestos, meaning that if it's in good condition and left undisturbed, there's no danger of asbestos fibres being released into the atmosphere.

However, a number of things can happen to break down fibro, including general weathering, especially on fibro roofs exposed to the elements, hail damage and fire damage, and home renovations in which the fibro is drilled into or otherwise disturbed.

All of these things carry the risk of making the asbestos "*friable*", meaning that you could breathe in asbestos fibres, increasing your risk of severe respiratory illnesses such as mesothelioma, asbestosis and lung cancer.

It is often difficult to identify the presence of asbestos by sight. The only way to be certain of the existence of the material is to have a sample analysed by a laboratory. Sampling is in itself hazardous and should only be done by a competent person and the material analysed only in accredited laboratories. Where materials are not tested it is safer to treat it as if it does contain asbestos, particularly if it is a product of a type and age that typically contains asbestos.

However, knowing that your home is made of fibro or asbestos does not necessarily mean your health is at risk or that your house needs to be demolished tomorrow. Current scientific and medical evidence supports the fact that simply living in a building containing asbestos is not dangerous as long as the asbestos is in good condition (i.e. undamaged and

undisturbed). Issues usually arise when people are unaware of the hazards of working with asbestos cement and do not take appropriate precautions. It is important to keep the fibro or asbestos cement sheeting in good order so that the asbestos fibre is safely sealed by the cement within the material. However, if fibro is cracked or broken, asbestos particles are likely to be released.



Garden settings could offset the plain and simple construction

If you've found something in your house or workplace that you think might be asbestos from damaged fibro, the best thing to do is have the asbestos survey done.

Any structure, such as a house or shed built in the 1950s, '60s and '70s, is a candidate for containing asbestos fibro. Try to establish the date when the house was built by consulting local authority records, the builder, past owners or even the neighbours.

Check out the neighbourhood. If many houses in the street and area are fibro, then this is a very strong clue. It is not always easy to visually identify fibro homes, especially if they have intentionally been reclad or rendered over and then painted. There are visual clues but you do need to be somewhat trained to identify them. This includes the type of joints in the materials, the texture, the visible fibres, the type of cornice, etc.

If the house has been reclad, you can often tell what is under the cladding if you go beneath the house, or into the roof cavity.

The issue becomes a concern if you were to buy a fibro home and you want to put a nail up on the wall to hang a painting; or perhaps you want to renovate the kitchen or bathroom one day.

If you're removing more than 10 square metres of fibro, you must engage a licensed asbestos removal contractor. SafeWork NSW has a helpful guide to assist with asbestos handling and management.



The iconic beach house



The house that Dad built!

Part of history and the Australian culture

These sometime nostalgic fibro houses do not need to be demolished just because they are constructed of fibro but should be celebrated as a part of the locality's history and culture.

New approaches and methods may need to be worked out when dealing with renovations of these houses and outbuildings.

In this instance, two things are at risk as architectural style continues to evolve - a significant part of history, and people's lives. History conservation does not seek to retain every fibro house ever constructed. However, examples should be retained safely and in context to demonstrate a period in our history when for a considerable portion of the population the “*Australian dream*” could only be realized by constructed these simple low-cost homes. Classic fibro homes, full of memories and character, are being torn down, risking the loss of part of our heritage and, if the demolition is not done correctly, poisoning from asbestos. But we must be aware that where this heritage is to be preserved, the materials used are not safe in their current form if inexperienced people are handling them. The use of an experienced heritage architect may be prudent when developing renovations, additions or extensions.

Patsy Moppett

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www.pacifi-edge.info/bonnie-vale

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Fibro homes made home ownership attainable after the war: Hawkesbury Gazette 27 November 2015

City of Gold Coast, The Fibro Beach House, Heritage Information Series: No.10, 1997

History and lives at risk as Coast fibro heritage crumbles: Sunshine Coast Daily, 4 August 2014

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Community events & updates

Australian Heritage Festival 2019: Connecting People, Places and the Past Lithgow City Council remembers

- ***Exhibition***

Thursday 18th April was the first day of Lithgow celebrating the Australian Heritage Festival 2019, and the Lithgow Library Learning Centre is celebrating our cultural heritage with an exhibition, in collaboration with the Lithgow Family History Society. They will also host a guest speaker day on 11 May 2019 10am to 1pm.

Each year the Australian National Trust in partnership with the Australian Government convenes and coordinates the Australian Heritage Festival to celebrate our national culture and heritage. As part of this festival (Connecting People, Places and the Past), Lithgow Library and the Lithgow and District Family History Society, have prepared an exhibition of photographs, images, documents, and a set of biographical research posters commemorating the 1919 outbreak of the Pneumonic Influenza in Lithgow.



Ben Mackay's funeral in Bridge Street, Lithgow 1919

“This was a hard time for the people of Lithgow”, said Mayor Ray Thompson, “It’s important that we remember those who died and the community that pulled together to make it through and support each other”.

A total of 102 people died in the Lithgow area from the beginning of April to the middle of May 1919, reaching a peak of 13 deaths in one day on 26th April of that year. This put enormous pressure on the cemetery, and graves could not be prepared fast enough, compelling Mayor Albert Watson to step in and organize and supervise men to dig the graves. It also added to the pressure on the Small Arms Factory, already disrupted by a seasonal influenza of 1918 and industrial actions.

To commemorate these bleak days the Library is holding an exhibition of original photographs, images and the Lithgow City Council’s Infectious Disease Register. The exhibition will feature Library photographs of the Small Arms Factory & Lithgow Influenza Emergency Hospital, Lithgow City Council documents 1918 -1919, plus biographical research posters by members of Lithgow & District Family History Society Inc. The exhibition will run from 18th April to 19th May 2019 and is free.

Lithgow City Council

- **History talks**

There will also be a guest speaker event on 11 May 2019 from 10am to 1pm. Speakers include:

- ❖ 10.00 am - Les Kiely: Funeral Rites in Modern Times & in the Past.
- ❖ 10.45 am - Renzo Benedet: Lithgow’s Small Arms Factory & Post-WW1 Influenza Pandemic.
- ❖ 12.00 pm - Jan Saundercock: Community Challenge, Family Tragedy – 1919 Pneumonic Influenza epidemic.

Bookings can be made to attend the history talks by contacting the Lithgow Library. Admission is free, and light refreshments will be provided.

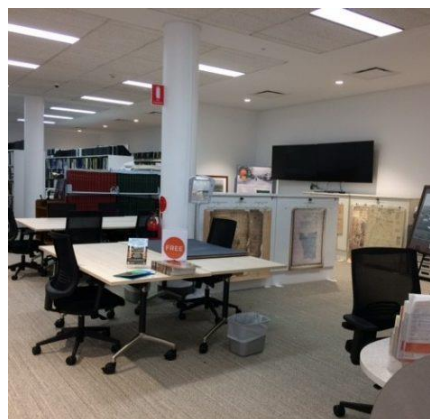
Phone: 02 6352 9100.

Penrith City Library Research Room Revealed

Penrith City Library has completed its refurbishment and is now open for business. The much anticipated research room is also now open.

Research Room Revealed – Connecting People, Places and the Past - the Library’s newly refurbished Research Room will be revealed with additional opening hours between 29th April and 5th May 2019.

On weekdays there will be talks and workshops, with additional opening hours to consult with professional staff and volunteers on local and family history.



Lorraine Stacker, Library Research Services Supervisor, indicates that they would love to see you and show you around their new research facility.

Lorraine Stacker

ADDRESS: 601 High Street, Penrith, New South Wales

TIMES: Penrith City Library Research Room open Monday 29th April - Saturday 4th May 9am - 5 pm; Sunday 5th May 10am - 5 pm

DATES: 29th April 2019, 30th April 2019, 1st May 2019, 2nd May 2019, 3rd May 2019, 4th May 2019, 5th May 2019

ENTRY FEES: Free

BOOKING: Prebooking required <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/penrith-city-library>
(<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/penrith-city-library>)

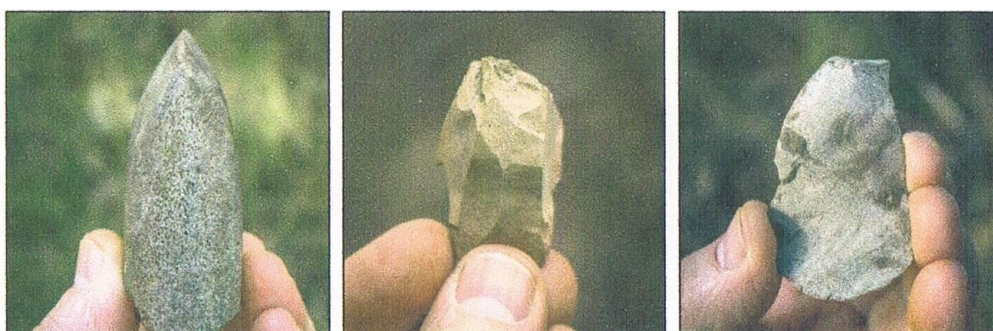
ATTENDANCE LIMIT: Less than 50

WEBSITE: penrithhistory.com (<http://penrithhistory.com>)

Book Launch: Aboriginal Heritage of the Blue Mountains

Recent Research and Reflections: edited by Kelvin Knox and Eugene Stockton

Blue Mountain Education and Research Trust announce a book launch to be held at 1 pm, on Sunday, 5th May 2019 in Our Lady of the Nativity School Hall behind Our Lady of the Nativity Catholic Church, Lawson (turn off the Great Western Highway at Somers Street). People have inhabited Australia for thousands of years. At the foot of the Blue Mountains, New South Wales, human occupation is dated at up to 50,000 years ago. In 1788, the way of life for Aboriginal people living in the Mountains irrevocably changed. However, their cultural heritage handed down from ancient generations has remained in the form of occupation sites, art, artefacts, axe grinding grooves, scarred trees, stone arrangements and other physical traces of their presence in the landscape. There are many reasons for society to preserve heritage.



For instance, the enriching of our lives, maintaining a sense of cultural identity, conserving scarce or non-renewable historical places and objects, and as an historical record for future generations. Heritage provides a powerful sense of a people's tradition, identity and place in the world.

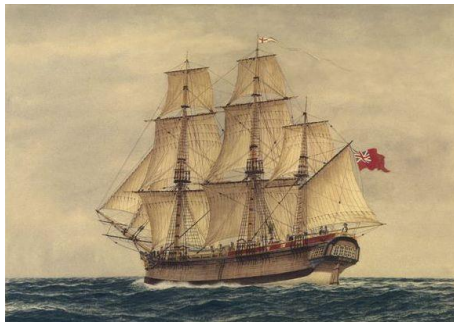
The people who have contributed to this book have an appreciation, perhaps abiding love and reverence, for the Mountains country; they have a deep respect for the people who traversed this country for thousands of years before Europeans came to Australia. They may assign importance to various metaphysical phenomena and physical objects. Perhaps, at times, being the first people in a couple of hundred years to experience the ancient – yet contemporary – culture; like Eugene Stockton has said, “*A hand-shake through time.*” *Aboriginal Heritage of the Blue Mountains* gathers together some new research, stories and reflections about the Mountains' Aboriginal inhabitants and their heritage. Perhaps what could now be understood as Australia's shared heritage. One significant reflection is that given the region is part of a World Heritage listed area, it is puzzling why Aboriginal heritage of the Mountains and surrounding places has not received greater recognition and protection; indeed, celebration!

Blue Mountain Education and Research Trust

Blue Mountain Education and Research Trust www.bmert.org
Inquiries to the Secretary: secretary@bmert.org

Tour: Norfolk Island, Wreck of the Sirius

Colo Shire Family History Group have planned a trip to Norfolk Island on 19th March 2020 to commemorate the 230th anniversary of the wrecking of HMS Sirius, flagship of the First Fleet, on the 19th March 1790.



HMS Sirius by Frank Allen



Captain John Hunter



Loss of the Sirius by George Raper

Visiting Norfolk Island on this important day you have the opportunity to “walk in the shoes” of your ancestors and all the hardy First Fleeters who lived through this dramatic time in Australia’s history. Their lives and the others who joined them to settle the Island are intriguing, rugged and detailed. Through sheer grit and determination, they survived. HMS Sirius is one of Australia’s most important shipwrecks because of its principle role in the foundation of the first British settlement in New South Wales. Never before had the British government undertaken the foundation of a colony across such a vast distance, or with convict labour, making this a significant event in European history. As the flagship of the First Fleet, HMS Sirius was the lead ship under the command of Captain Arthur Phillip, the first governor of the settlement at Sydney.

*Information and expressions of interest may be forwarded to the Colo Shire Family History Group PO Box 206, Richmond 2753,
Carolynne Cooper Ph: 02 4576 0356 or Joy Shepherd Ph: 02 4588 5867*

Hawkesbury Events

Howe House, Windsor

Howe House in Thompson Square, Windsor, will open for tours from 5.30pm to 7.30pm on Friday, 3rd May 2019 for a “*Peek into the Past*”. Join the Hawkesbury Historical Society for drinks and nibbles and glimpse the fascinating past of the colonial couple Jane and John Howe. Walk the old rooms and hear the ghost stories and short talks by historians Ian Jack, Jan Barkley-Jack and Rebecca Turnbull (Museum Curator).



This is a free event but RSVP by 26th April to: secretaryhawkesburyhistory@gmail.com or (02)4578 2443.

Hawkesbury Historical Society General Meeting will be held on Saturday 22nd June 2019 at 2pm, at the Hawkesbury Regional Museum, Baker St., Windsor. The guest speaker will be Wal Walker and his subject is D'Arcy Wentworth, an Irish surgeon who came to the colony with the 2nd Fleet in 1790 and father of William Charles Wentworth. D'Arcy served under the

first seven Governors and was a great assistant to Lachlan Macquarie. Visitors are welcome to their General Meetings.

Contacts: secretaryhawkesburyhistory@gmail.com or (02)4578 2443.

Coach Tours: Hawkesbury Valley Heritage Tours

Coach Tour No. 1: Explores the historic sites of Windsor, Wilberforce, Pitt Town & Ebenezer. Enjoy the mix of architectural styles in the townships; drive through picturesque rural farmlands and view significant historic buildings such as Tebbutt's Observatory, Windsor Courthouse, St Matthew's Anglican Church in Windsor and Australia's oldest church at Ebenezer.



Ebenezer Church

Coach Tour No. 2: Visits painting sites in the Hawkesbury used by the artists Streeton, Ashton, Conder and many others. This tour includes the Old Hawkesbury Agricultural College (now UWS Hawkesbury Campus); spectacular panoramic views of the Hawkesbury Valley and fruit tasting at a local orchard shop with opportunity to purchase fruit, jams, honey or preserves.



Streeton 1896



Conder 1888

Hawkesbury Valley Heritage Tours is run by Carol Roberts and her husband Geoff. They are members of many local historical societies and groups, as well as the National Trust and Historic Houses Association. Carol is a sixth-generation local Hawkesburyite who worked in government administration for the RAAF for many years and then Hawkesbury City Council. She also runs Advancing History, the research arm of Hawkesbury Valley Heritage Tours.

Carol Roberts

Hawkesbury Valley Heritage Tours has a new website which is now active at:

www.hawkesburyheritagetours.net

They also have a new email address for the business which is admin@hawkesburyheritagetours.org

An Afternoon with Otto Steen

Lovers of art, architecture, or the iconic mountain properties: the life and work of Danish artist and sculptor, Otto Steen, will be explored in a talk by historian, Professor Dr Ian Jack at Everglades, Leura on Saturday 18th May 2019, from 2pm to 4pm.

Steen made important contributions to landmark buildings of the Art Deco period, including The Paragon Cafe and Everglades Historic House. The talk is sponsored by *Friends of The Paragon Inc*, in-conjunction with National Trust, Everglades.



Photograph credits:

Otto Steen frieze at The Paragon, by Linsi Braith

Everglades garden feature, Patsy Moppett

The cost is \$30 per person including a Devonshire Tea, reminiscent of The Paragon. The afternoon tea served will be scones, jam and cream. Please advise us by email if you have special dietary needs.

Guests are invited to arrive from 1pm to enjoy the gardens prior to the 2pm start of the talk. Afternoon tea will follow. On arrival, please go to the Everglades Shop where you will be greeted by a Friend and directed to the historic house.

Bookings are essential. Places are limited.

Go to Trybooking - www.trybooking.com/BBOX1 OR email the Friends at friendsoftheparagon@gmail.com to reserve your seat and arrange payment by direct debit.

Exhibition: Resilience in Times of Adversity

An up and coming exhibition at the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre is “*Resilience in Times of Adversity: Contemporary Responses to WW2 in the Blue Mountains. 1939-1950*”.



Artist-curator Vivienne Dadour has extensive experience as a professional artist managing the different roles of researcher, exhibiting artist, curator, workshop leader, teacher and Community Project Co-ordinator. Dadour's curatorial and artistic practice is deeply committed to the social relevance of art. From 1992 her interests have included social and political issues concerning cultural diversity and the politics of identity. These interests have conceptualised Dadour's past and current research based art projects, leading her to seek interpretive strategies that challenge aspects of mainstream political discourse, while encouraging dialogue and fostering tolerance of cultural diversity.

The exhibition will be held at the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, 30 Parke Street, Katoomba (10am to 5pm) from 17th August 2019 until 29th September 2019. The opening will be between 6 -8 p.m. on the 30th August 2019.

2019 MUSE workshops:

Responding again to interests and concerns expressed during 2018 through meetings, visits, current status review and emails Gay Hendriksen, Museums Advisor to Blue Mountains City Council, will continue what she hopes will be the useful practical workshop series - *Muse*. The free *Muse* workshop series is part of the museum advisor service provided by Blue Mountains City Council and Museums & Galleries NSW.

The series will provide tools, resources and skills development for regional museums, archives, library and gallery sector in the Blue Mountains.

To be eligible for this program you need to be a member of a regional museum, archive, library and gallery or associated organisation in the Blue Mountains region. The sessions are limited in number so if you don't make it to the list please email Gay and she will put you on the waiting list.

The upcoming topics will include:

Workshop 1: Housekeeping - which will cover disaster planning, best practice museum administration - such as policy work (collection policies etc), volunteering rights and responsibilities.

Workshop 2: Significance Assessment, museum object cataloguing, and collection management.

The next Muse workshops will be on 7th May and 6th August 2019.

For further information contact:

Gay Hendriksen, The Rowan Tree Heritage and Cultural Services
www.therowantree.com.au

Changing of the guard

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

The incoming committees for 2019-2020 are comprised as follows:

BMACHO

President: Ian Jack

Vice President: Patsy Moppett

Secretary: Fiona Burn

Treasurer: Phil Hammon

Committee: Suzanne Smith, Roy Bennett, Rae Clapshaw, Jan Koperberg, Dick Morony, Summar Hipworth, Rod Stowe (co-opted).

Newsletter Editor: Patsy Moppett

Membership/Calendar/Publicity Officer: Dick Morony

Blue Mountains Journal editor: Peter Rickwood

Correspondence Secretary/Grants/Websites: Jan Koperberg

Events & venues co-ordinator: Suzanne Smith

Blue Mountains Historical Society

President: Alan Foster

Vice Presidents: John Pike, Robyne Ridge

Secretary: Jeanette Robinson

Treasurer: Ross Ingram

Committee: Joanne Burgess, Eric Halbert, Fiona Burn, John Hill

Patsy Moppett

Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail Update



BMACHO continues to promote the Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail and members' upcoming events. BMACHO reprinted the Heritage Trail brochure in 2017 which was distributed to visitors' centres across the region.

The Trail is an ideal activity for the kids and grandkids, be it in the school holidays or any weekend, especially in autumn! Collect the Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail brochure at participating venues and Visitor Information Centres.

BMACHO is currently undertaking a review of the operation of the Trail brochure over the coming months, with a view to the issue of a new and revised brochure in 2019. Contact has been made with the various participants from past brochures, and BMACHO is also considering new participants. Once again, your feedback will be most welcome!

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

For general information about BMACHO and the Trail, see heritagedrive.com.au or www.facebook.com/GBMHeritageTrail

To find out more about BMACHO visit www.bluemountainsheritage.com.au

Autumn in the Blue Mountains Follow the BMACHO Heritage Trail



Mt Tomah



Mt Wilson

BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

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

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

Website: www.bluemountainsheritage.com.au

ABN: 53 994 839 952

The organisation: Blue Mountains Association of Cultural & Heritage Organisations Inc. (BMACHO) was established in April 2006 after local historical and heritage societies and individuals recognised the need for the creation of a cultural heritage strategy for the local government area (LGA) of Blue Mountains City Council. The constituency now embraces but is not limited to, the LGAs of Blue Mountains, Lithgow, Hawkesbury 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.

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; Friends of the Paragon Inc; Glenbrook & District Historical Society Inc; Hartley District Progress Association; Hawkesbury Historical Society Inc; Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society Inc; Leuralla NSW Toy & Railway Museum; Lithgow & District Family History Society Inc; Lithgow – Eskbank House Museum and 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; Scenic World Blue Mountains Limited; Springwood Historical Society 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: Fiona Burn, Philip Hammon, Dr Wayne Hanley, Associate Professor Ian Jack, Ian Milliss, Patsy Moppett, Keith Painter and Dr Peter Rickwood.

Committee: The management committee for 2019-2020 (from March 2019) is: Ian Jack (President), Patsy Moppett (Vice President and Newsletter Editor), Fiona Burn (Secretary), Philip Hammon (Treasurer), Dick Morony (Public Officer/Membership Secretary/ Calendar Editor), Suzanne Smith (Events and Venue Co-ordinator), Jan Koperberg (Correspondence Secretary), Summar Hipworth, Rae Clapshaw, Roy Bennett, and Rod Stowe (co-opted).

Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail sub-committee: Fiona Burn, Jan Koperberg, Rae Clapshaw and Suzanne Smith, with guest member Gay Hendrikson.

Blue Mountains History Conference 2020 sub-committee: Ian Jack, Patsy Moppett, Jan Koperberg, Summar Hipworth, Phil Hammon.

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