

# *Heritage*

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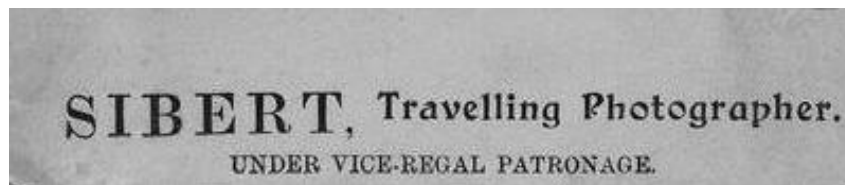
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## **Charles Alfred Sibert – Travelling Photographer**

Travelling photographers were visitors to many country towns in the later 1800s and early 1900s, though local photographers who owned permanent photographic stores didn't appreciate them. Charles Alfred Sibert was based in Melbourne and later relocated to NSW, where he travelled throughout the central west in a wagonette equipped for the photographic portrait trade. At various times he was based at Moss Vale & Bowral, and at Wellington, Mudgee and Lithgow.



*Sibert's wagonette – is Sibert one of the gentlemen in the front of the wagon?*



*Photograph caption*

Prior to coming from Melbourne to NSW he had teamed up with a man named William H Bursle and was trading as Sibert & Bursle. Sibert & Bursle were recorded advertising their business in Bathurst's National Advocate in late August and September 1880. Their trip from Victoria to NSW in the 1870s can be traced through observations in newspapers along the way which recorded their exploits and legal wrangles. It would appear that they were often open to litigation in regard to employees who absconded, or were charged with misconduct or theft.

For a time they were travelling photographers in the Mudgee district from 1888 to 1891 though they did make appearances for a month or so in Lithgow as well as Bathurst. Charles first announced in the newspaper in Mudgee that he was setting up shop there in 1889 and he opened a small shop on the corner of Market & News Streets, next to Mr Stearn's. He said he was prepared to take pictures of any size and any style, at the cheapest rates. He

would also capture residences and cemetery headstones. Then Sibert set up in Main Street, Lithgow, and visited Wallerawang, Rydal, Portland, Cullen & other centres for short periods. William Bursle set up permanent studios in Orange in 1894 where he had the distinction of being the best photographer on the Western Line until after 1900. He later removed off to Sydney.



Family group



Picnic party

Sibert was also known around Katoomba around 1890, and his photographs have been recorded around Camden.

Back in 1878 Sibert had been involved in a court case relating to a horse near Cowra, at Burrowa. He had purchased a mare in exchange for a horse and 8 pounds from one John Murphy and a guarantee was supposedly given that the mare would “pull his waggon up any hill or through any creek from one end of the colony to the other”. Murphy told Sibert he could write his own guarantee and Murphy would sign it. This supposedly occurred, without Sibert knowing that the man could not read or write. When the mare was found to be a “thorough jib”, Sibert sought an action to recover costs. William Bursle and an employee Isiah Thomas were witnesses who corroborated Sibert’s story but who had not been involved in the transaction. During his evidence Sibert had shown himself to very vindictive towards the accused and the jury returned after only an hour with a verdict of not guilty. This seems to set the pattern of Sibert’s life as he was frequently involved in court cases and making accusations both in court and in the local newspapers against people he claimed had wronged him, or who might seek to wrong him.

In 1889 Jackson Small, 29 years of age and a photographer, was remanded in Newtown on a charge of having fraudulently embezzled the sum of 30s, received on account of his master, Charles Alfred Sibert, bail being allowed.

In 1890 the Richmond & Windsor Gazette records the following:

*Sibbert [sic], the photographer, is a gay old dog, and if not a millionaire, he has at least a wealth of humour in his composition, and can tell some of the tallest yarns heard on this side of the line. Sibbert once rusticated in the quaint old town of Mudgee, where he photographed most of our prominent townsmen, cured the toothache acquired by the scions of local nobility, and removed the corns of all and sundry, for a small consideration. He liked his little joke, did Sibbert, and his proclivities in this direction brought him into contact with a local newspaper-man, whose dander was raised, and who promptly flew to the columns of his paper for revenge. One day this journalist was proceeding homewards, when he was publicly horsewhipped, just as other “mushroom journalists” have been treated before to-day, and just as every fellow who is mean and cowardly enough to attack defenceless people—often ladies—in a scurrilous “rag,” deserves to be treated. Sibbert did not do the whipping personally, but he was very jubilant at such a castigation having been administered. It is only by applying physical punishment to some people - whose hides are too thick to allow of even a direct insult being felt - that you can get at them. Cast an insult at them, and in their ignorance they will take it as a compliment; but cow-hide them and they will wince and whine, and invoke the aid of the law. Well, it appears that one night after the cow-hiding had been done, an old grey horse, the property of the aforesaid newspaper-*

*proprietor, was taken to a certain photographic establishment close by, and several words were painted on each side of the animal, in plain block letters. Then the equine had an old rug thrown over it, and was removed to the flower-garden of a rev. gentleman close by - a sympathiser with the aforesaid newspaper-man. It was allowed to roam at will here, and after it had made a dainty meal off the choice plants, and kicked the flower-stand to smithereens, the old equine walked onto the verandah and proceeded to chew the breast out of a pair of the parson's pants. He heard the rumpus, and getting up, saw exactly how matters stood, In the morning he took the "hoss" round to the newspaper-office, but the proprietor denied ownership, and the police sent it to the local pound. Then they interviewed Sibbert - but he, (of course), knew nothing about it. He suggested that his enemy, the newspaper-man, had done the painting himself, and put the blame on others to excite sympathy - an explanation which the police accepted. To tell the truth, Sibbert is a hot member when put out, and is better left alone.*

By 1891 Sibert was at Mittagong, and in February 1891 he complained in the local newspaper that his trap had been broken a few days before due to the defective nature of the footpath in front of his studio. He had opened the studio in Mr Draper's premises opposite the post office, claiming faithful and first-class photographs, the photographic art being carried out in all its perfection! Appointments were by letter, and he also did picture and photograph framing.

However, his premises did not suit him, and he relocated to the other side of the road to Mr Beer's shop. By the end of the year he was in Bowral and had erected his own premises. At the time he notified the public that photographers John Small, Henry Hay and William Jackson were not in his employ, nor in any way connected with his firm. Ten pounds reward was offered for information of any photographer obtaining money or work in his name, not legally authorized.

A few weeks beforehand, the eight-hour procession had been held and Sibert was not able to attend and therefore photograph the event. This was regretted by the community.

In February 1892 he was at Bowral at the same time as Kerry & Co were working in that area. In the local paper again, Sibert warned people not to sign documents for enlargements with other travelling agents Atlas, and Men of Mark, who profess to be photographers. He also advised the public to visit his studio to see the goodness of his work, the truthfulness of his portraits, and the prices to meet the villainous times of reconstruction and bank robberies!

The paper reported at the time that he had 30 years' experience in Melbourne and Sydney, with his reputation spreading the length and breadth of Australia. Photographs of groups and babies were taken "*instantaneously*"! Views of waterfalls, Bowral and the district were available, and he also captured shots of families, residences and picnic parties.

In September Sibert was again in court in Bowral seeking redress of 2 pounds five shillings from Mr LJ Marks for photographic work done. Marks and his family had travelled to Bowral some 12 months previously and had photos taken. When they returned home to Sydney the photographs had not been paid for. Mrs Marks indicated they would send the money but in the end the photos were returned to Sibert, being apparently unsatisfactory. Marks then claimed he had never been in Bowral at the time. However, the bench gave a verdict for Sibert with costs, which were eventually paid by Marks.

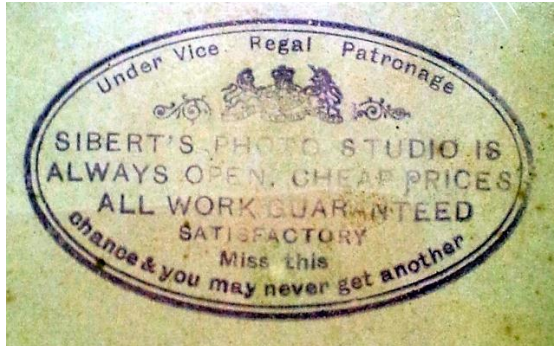
Sibert informed the newspaper in November that he had weathered the winter, he was determined to remain in Bowral, and that his travelling waggonettes were now traversing the different districts, and would visit every homestead, farm, etc in rotation. Residents were to "*await his arrival*"!

At the same time Sibert advertised that he was under the vice-regal patronage of Sir William Jervoise, 10<sup>th</sup> Governor of South Australia (1877-1883), Lord Carrington Governor of NSW (1880-1890), and his excellency Lord Jersey and family.

In February 1898 Sibert again advertised that he had been, by special appointment, the nominated photographer to Lord (Earl) Jersey's family at their country residence "*Hillview*", at Sutton Forest. "*Hillview*" was the official country residence of the Governor of NSW from

1882 to 1957 and is now a boutique hotel. Victor Albert George Child Villiers, 7th Earl of Jersey was a British banker, politician and colonial administrator from the Villiers family. He served as Governor of NSW between 1891 and 1893.

Hence the use of the Royal Coat of Arms as captions on Sibert's photographs and heading his advertisements.



*Vice Regal Patronage*



*Family group*

In March 1902 he set up his Coronation Studio in Market Street, back in Mudgee, with Louis Alexander, next to Mr Davidson's offices. Pictures in the window supposedly displayed how skilfully the work was carried out. Prices were claimed to be most moderate. He did not approve of the new invented white paper used for printing and would not use it, preferring the older silver paper. He always claimed his prices were the best, being quite comparable with Sydney prices.

In 1903 his business was registered to Market Square, Mudgee. In 1904 he was again announcing to the Mudgee public that two pounds reward were offered for any information on conviction of any person soliciting work in his name.

In December 1906 the newspaper reported that they had been shown some photographs of old identities of Mudgee, some going back 40 years. It was suggested that people still living might want a photograph of some departed relative, and were advised to contact Sibert, who would display some in his shop window.

Sibert was also known for photography in Sydney, Melbourne and Mudgee in regard to cartes-de-visite and cabinet cards. The cabinet card was a style of photograph which was widely used for photographic portraiture after 1870. It consisted of a thin photograph mounted on a card typically measuring 108 by 165 mm. A card-de-visite was a visiting card, or a calling card, often with a photographic portrait mounted on it.

It would appear as though Sibert was married in 1898 to an Ellen Batts in Lithgow. An examination of the marriage certificate reveals that Charles Alfred Sibert, a bachelor aged 64, was married on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1898 to Ellen Batts, a widow aged 54, in Lithgow. They were married at the house/premises of Charles Sibert in Main Street, under the rites of the Wesleyan Church. Both were born in London, England.

He was a photographer and she a housekeeper. Her usual place of residence was Sydney. His father's name was noted as John Sibert, a tailor, and his mother was Ann Smith. Her father was John William Canter, a liquor tester, and her mother was Selina Burton.

As he ran a business Charles may have required a housekeeper, so this Ellen may have been his housekeeper.

It is noted that all the handwriting on the marriage certificate is the same, including the signatures, and the information would have been as advised by Charles, and therefore not necessarily accurate. The witnesses were not related, and the ceremony was held at home. This sounds most hasty and unusual.

The Newspaper records that Charles died suddenly at his home in Market Street (Square), Mudgee, on the evening of 14 February 1908, aged 78.

An examination of his death certificate reveals that the death certificate was recorded for Charles Alfred Knight, also known as Charles Alfred Sibert, an old age pensioner aged 73. He died at Market Street, Mudgee on 13<sup>th</sup> February 1908. He was a photographer, and died



of Mihal disease, a bowel disfunction, which he had suffered from for 15 years. His father is listed as John Knight, and his mother as Ann Smith. The informant was no relation. He was buried in the Church of England Cemetery at Mudgee, with the undertaker being Francis Jones. His place of birth is listed as London, England. It was recorded that he spent 8 years in Tasmania, 11 years in Victoria and 40 years in NSW. His marriage was recorded as above, and he had no children.

It would seem that at some point in Tasmania or Melbourne, Charles took on the name Sibert, perhaps to enhance his business, or to disguise something in his past. His business in Melbourne was with Bursle and seemed legitimate, so the thought occurs, what might have happened in Tasmania?

The dates on the death certificate suggest that he was born in 1835 and came to Australia (Tasmania) in about 1849, aged about 14. Convict transportation ceased to Van Dieman's Land in 1853. Further research is required to establish whether Charles was a convict or an immigrant.

Upon his death, Charles was reported as being an old and remarkable identity. He had been unwell for a time, complaining of pains a few days before. He was an old school photographer possessed of amazing vitality, working until within half an hour of his death, sitting in a chair reading after his work of the day. The funeral was held the day after at the Church of England portion of the Mudgee cemetery, the Venerable Archdeacon Dunstan officiating. The whereabouts of Ellen after this time is not known, at this stage.

So, although Sibert is a German name, Sibert was a native of London as Charles Knight, born in about 1835 to John & Ann, and he left no known relatives in Australia, except Ellen. In April 1908 his goods and effects were to be sold by HEA Wells & Co on Sibert's premises, as reported in the Mudgee Guardian.

However, Charles appears to have left his entire estate to a Tommy Yavion (a Chinese man) who lived at Windeyer, south west of Mudgee. A Yavion descendant has informed Mudgee Historical Society members that Tommy disposed of all of Sibert's "stuff" – his wagon, his photographic plates and anything else that there may have been. At this point it is unknown how Thomas Yavion came to feature in Sibert's life and why all of his assets didn't end up with the wife, Ellen. And indeed, what happened to Ellen?

The Mudgee Guardian also recorded the following:

*Tommy Yavion, of Windeyer, who hails from that weird eastern land where the rice comes from, is the sole legatee in the estate of the late C. A. Sibert. He intends turning the goods and chattels of the departed into cash, and like most legatees in higher walks of life speaks disparagingly of the smallness of the estate!*

It would appear as though there is more research to be done in regard to this interesting character, Charles Alfred Sibert (Knight)!

*Patsy Moppett*

*Note: References available upon request*

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

### ***Vale - Emeritis Professor Dr Ian Jack***

*Senior Fellow, St Andrew's College, Sydney University and former BMACHO President*

The BMACHO membership and the wider community sincerely regrets the passing of BMACHO Committee President Dr Ian Jack, who passed away on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019. Ian was an Individual Member of BMACHO since its inception in March 2006, and Vice President for all of that time until he became President in March 2019.

It is acknowledged that many accolades have been bestowed upon Ian from the wider community during the past weeks since September, and this will continue for many months to come.

For BMACHO, Ian provided regular and grass roots input into the running of the BMACHO organization, and together with the original President John Leary, who passed away in 2014, steered the group towards the organization it is today.

As President of BMACHO, and their representative in various spheres within the community, he was able to provide valuable representation and feedback. He was on the BMACHO Conference subcommittee, and recently represented BMACHO on the Blue Mountains Heritage Expo/Forum 2020 Committee for Blue Mountains City Council.



*Associate Professor R Ian Jack, RIP 2019  
Photo source: FAHS*

Ian always presented a balanced view over a wide range of matters following careful consideration and appreciation of sometimes conflicting points of view, and his enthusiasm for concerns that he felt particularly strong about will be sorely missed.

Ian was a consummate speaker and his presentations were always heard with rapt attention across the Blue Mountains region and beyond. Ian has presented in some capacity at each of BMACHO's biannual Conferences since 2012, which included keynote speaker on two occasions.

Ian was also a contributor to BMACHO's Blue Mountains History Journal, and the *Heritage* Newsletter.

During the process of delivering addresses about Blue Mountains and colonial heritage, we

learnt more about the man and his personal background, when he shared many stories of his own Scottish heritage, together with the history of the Scots in Australia, particularly at Lithgow.

From his residence at Windsor and with his involvement in that community we were kept informed about Hawkesbury happenings and things that were dear to his heart, with St Matthews Church and Thompson's Square being focuses of his attention.

The BMACHO Committee's thoughts and prayers are with his family. Ian leaves behind his wife Jan, sons in Great Britain, and their families.

## **GOLD!**

Sydney Morning Herald, Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May 1851

*The discovery of the fact by Mr Hargraves that the country from the mountain ranges to a considerable distance into the interior is one immense goldfield has produced great excitement in the town of Bathurst and the surrounding district. For several days after our last publication the business of the Town was completely disorganised. A madness has seized practically every person in the town, and there has been a wild rush to the diggings. It would be impossible to describe the many scenes – grave, gay and aboard [sic] – which have arisen out of this mad rush for gold. Groups of people were to be seen on Friday morning at every corner of the town earnestly talking about possibilities and impossibilities, and eagerly pouncing upon anybody who was likely to give information about the diggings. People of all trades and professions were quickly changed into miners, and many a hand which had trained to kid gloves or had been accustomed to hold nothing stronger than a pen became anxious to clutch a pick and crowbar, or "rock the cradle".*

*The blacksmiths of the town could not make the picks fast enough and the manufacture of d\cradles was the second largest business of the town.*

*A few left town for the diggings on Monday; but on Saturday and yesterday the roads to Summer Hill Creek were crowded with newly made miners, some carrying picks, others shouldering crowbars, and a few strung around with wash-hand basins and tin pots. Scores have rushed from their homes with only a blanket, a pick and a grubbing hoe, full of hope that a day's labour would fill their pockets with gold. Such is the intensity of excitement that people appear almost completely forgetful of ordinary comfort, and think of nothing but GOLD.*

*From our correspondent in Bathurst*

*Late News: Latest reports indicate that approximately 5,000 people have camped at Summer Hill Creek and the surrounding areas. Reports are somewhat confused, but apparently several large strikes have been reported. Already officials are said to be worried about the numerous "tent towns" that have sprung up so quickly in these past few days. They anticipate a probable outbreak of sickness because of the bad conditions. Food supplies particularly. I'm going out to look for gold too!*

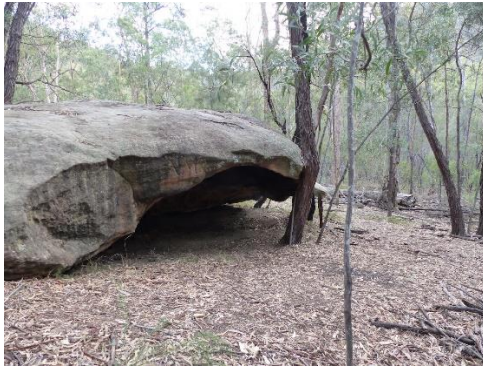
## **Massacre at Shaw's Creek**

In May 1805 the Sydney Gazette reported on a recent conflict that occurred between armed settlers and Aboriginal people. The conflict was waged on the western side of the Nepean/Hawkesbury River, in the foothills of the Blue Mountains in late April. It was probably in the vicinity of Shaw's Creek.

Less than two decades had passed since the first fleet of English ships had dropped anchor in the waters which these new arrivals named Port Jackson. Settlement had not as yet spread beyond the Blue Mountain barrier. Dispossession of the Aboriginal people from their lands had become a common, unquestioning practice. Allied to this was a general wanton disrespect for native customs, food sources and property. An attitude of arrogant entitlement seemed to cloud the judgement of many of those who grasped any sliver of power in this new colony. It is therefore not really surprising that there had been such serious and

continuing conflict in the outer settlements during this tense period. The Aboriginal people would have considered their resistance more than justifiable. In these conflicts, their intimate knowledge of the country gave them a significant advantage which they did not fail to use. The conflict around Shaw's Creek in late April 1805 is a good example of this.

The Sydney Gazette's report berated what was considered "*treachery*" by a local native who had previously been friendly. The settler force was led by the local chief constable, Andrew Thompson. In the previous year, Thompson, a prospering local emancipist, had been given a generously large land grant of 278 acres by Governor King. Calling his new property *Agnes Banks*, in memory of his mother, it was situated where the district of the same name is today.



*Rock shelter*

Thompson therefore had increasing vested interests in quelling any problems caused by the native population. It explains his party's prompt response to Governor King's recent declaration in support of the settler farmers against local natives who had been responsible for raids on outlying farms. Some of these raids had resulted in death, wounding and destruction of property. Supplying his force with a wagon and a boat, Thompson led the armed settlers on an exhausting passage from Windsor through rising flood waters. He was accompanied by two Aboriginal guides to whom he seemed to have had no hesitation in providing weapons. They also came with him on the morally dubious promise allowing them each to seize a native woman for themselves. This decision has subtle, racial overtones as one cannot imagine him making a similar agreement with the settlers. Was it just another unconscious, racist response when dismissing the natives as "*savages*"?

The Aboriginal man whom the Sydney Gazette branded a "*traitor*" was known as Yaragowby. On learning that Thompson's force was planning an assault on Aboriginal people encamped in the Yarramundi area, he took a short cut and warned them of the coming danger. As a result, when the settlers finally reached the supposed initial camp, it was deserted. The warning provided the Aboriginals with a strategic advantage and they seized upon it.

They lit a distant fire as a decoy to mislead the settler force away from where they were. However, the native guides who accompanied Thompson were not fooled by this. Instead, they managed to lead the settlers unnoticed "*within gun-shot*" of the Aboriginals. Giving no warning, a surprise attack was made which resulted in "*seven or eight*" native deaths. Those Aboriginal people who survived the attack deliberately retreated without a fight, intending to set in play another strategic ploy. Some natives positioned themselves above the planned path which the retreating Aboriginals would take if it became necessary. This had to have been planned earlier as they had positioned a collection of large rocks, ready to hurl down on the settlers as they passed below. This strategy was never used as the native guides again warned the pursuing settlers of the dangerous trap.





Shaw's Creek area



Nepean River near Shaw's Creek

The settlers who remained behind at the scene of the attack were amazed at the “several thousand spears, frightfully jagged”, which had been left behind. Just as Watkin Tench had realised back in 1788, so Thompson’s men acknowledged the foolhardiness of underestimating the lethal nature of the native spears.

“On first setting foot in the country,” Tench had written in *A Narrative of the Expedition to Botany Bay*, “we were inclined to hold the spears of the natives very cheap. Fatal experience has, however, convinced us that the wound inflicted by this weapon is not a trivial one, and that the skill of the Indians in throwing it is far from despicable”.

Thompson’s men believed that all the spears which they saw were weapons of war, “certain of carrying mortality along with them”. They failed to realise that this place appears to have been used as a factory or workshop where this enormous quantity of spears were made not only for weapons. They were also made for hunting, fishing and other pursuits which this verdant area possessed in abundance. Suitable timber, gum sap and stone for the various spears and their shafts could be conveniently sourced in the area. Proximity to river and creek water provided ample opportunity for fishing. Kangaroos were hunted in the area, as evidenced by that animal’s representation in various local, stone engravings.

An article in the Sydney Gazette of 7 April 1805, just weeks prior to the Aboriginal killings by Thompson’s party, highlights the ample supply of eels often available in these waters. It reported on “a quantity of very fine eels (that) was last week caught by the natives in the lagoon of Yarramundi”.



Nepean River looking upstream towards the Blue Mountains



The grave of Andrew Thompson (foreground)  
St Matthews Church, Windsor

The number of deaths resulting from this attack on the Aboriginal people was never accurately recorded. It could possibly have been higher than the “seven or eight” that was initially reported. The body of Yaragowby was discovered in the aftermath of the attack, garbed in what was later described as clothing similar to that of the unfortunate settler farmers who had been killed in the recent native raids. This could possibly be seen as a very convenient description which helped justify the attack and subsequent deaths. Thompson had seen Yaragowby on the day before the attack at Windsor. He never had any reason to suspect the Aboriginal of wrong doing and showed genuine surprise on seeing his body.

There was really no way of knowing whether any of the Aboriginal people who were attacked, had been responsible for any violence on the settler farmers. No casualties seem to have been suffered by Thompson's party. What happened to the wounded and the dead Aboriginal bodies is unknown. Their gender and age also remain a mystery.

It was reported that after the attack all the spears were collected and burnt. Whether this fire also consumed the native bodies is not recorded. If so, it certainly hides forever the true number of fatalities.

Rather than denouncing Yaragowby as a traitor, he could be praised as a hero. Not only did he swiftly rush to warn his people of the proposed threat to their lives from Thompson's force but he gave his own life in the process. Of course, such an interpretation of events was never going to be made by the Sydney Gazette. Skills in military strategy and heroism seem not to be considered the province of the Aboriginal people encountered in the colony of New South Wales.

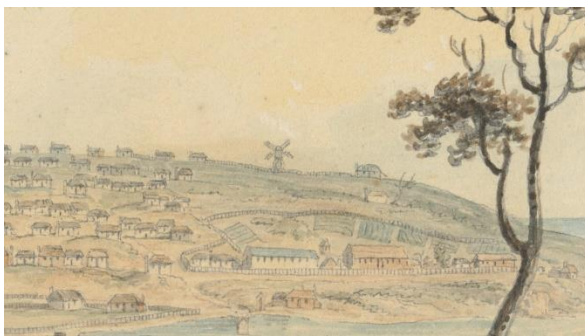
Many now consider the attack in the foothills around Shaw's Creek in April 1805 as nothing less than a massacre.

*Jim Low*

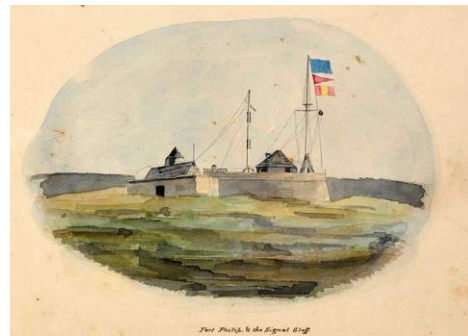
## **Observatory Hill & Observatory Hill**

### **Observatory Hill, Sydney**

Observatory Hill, Sydney is named as such for the Observatory which stands upon it. Its history dates to 1796 when the hill was used as the site of the first windmill in the colony, and the site was called Windmill Hill. The windmill was constructed by John Davis, an Irish convict, a stone tower used to grind wheat. It was replaced by another windmill to the south some years later.



*Windmill Hill 1797*



*Fort Philip and the Signal Staff*

In 1804 Fort Philip was built on the Hill, being partially demolished in the 1850s, and the remains are still to be seen. They appear as the wall at the front and side of the signal station and are the eastern rampart of the Fort which was used as the foundations for the signal station when it was built in 1848. The chains on the wall which are still visible were used to limit the amount of recoil of the canons used in the Fort.

Construction was commenced by Governor King, but it was never fully completed. It was built around the first windmill, and the tower of the ruined windmill was used for storage or accommodation for many years. It was intended that the Fort was to be hexagonal but only three sides were substantially completed. Construction ceased in 1806.

The signal station was built on the eastern rampart of Fort Philip in 1847 which was for many years called the Fort Philip Signal Station. In 1808 a flagstaff was erected on Fort Phillip and by 1823 a semaphore had been placed there. A hut for the signalman was also built at this time. This was replaced in 1847 by the more substantial stone building designed by architect Mortimer Lewis which exists today. This building was the home of successive signal masters and their families until 1939 when the station was closed.





*Sydney Observatory 1902*



*Sydney Observatory today*

In 1858 Sydney Observatory was built near the signal station. For over a 100 years it played an essential role in shipping, navigation, meteorology and timekeeping and astronomy. Today the building is used as a museum and public observatory. It was built between 1857 and 1859, designed by Alexander Dawson, the Colonial Architect, and a west wing was added to the building in 1876.

The site of the building was chosen because it was clearly visible from the harbour. It was originally intended that it was to only provide a time service through the operation of the Time Ball which still functions today. The Ball was dropped at 1p.m. and at the same time a cannon was fired at Dawes Point and then in later years at Fort Denison. The purpose of the Time Ball was so that ships could readjust their chronometers after being at sea for extended periods.

The present day National Trust Centre on the Hill was built as a military hospital in 1825 which closed in 1848, becoming the Fort Street Model School. Although Fort Street School still exists on Observatory Hill the historic military hospital is now the headquarters of the National Trust.

The school was officially established in 1849, when the conversion of the building was approved by the government. This original school building is visible today beside the southern approaches to the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The establishment of Fort Street School marked the establishment of a non-denominational system of school, where the government undertook the education of its people, separate from religion. The influence of the Fort Street Model School was substantial, forming the basis for education throughout the colonies. The school's name was derived from the name of a street which ran into the grounds of the hospital and became part of the playground during its reconstruction. The street name is perpetuated in the small street in Petersham that leads to the present school.



*Fort Street Model School 1871*



*The Rotunda 1932*

There is also a Rotunda in the precinct which dates back to 1912, where the Metropolitan Band played regularly, particularly on Sunday afternoons and evenings.

The Hill historic precinct provides views out across the harbour, as it did in colonial days.

### ***Observatory Hill, London***

The Royal Observatory is also located on an Observatory Hill, in Observatory Hill Park in Greenwich, London. Until its closure in 1998, it was the oldest scientific research institution in Great Britain. It was founded for navigational purposes in 1675 by King Charles II of England, and the astronomer in charge was given the title of astronomer royal. Its primary contributions were in practical astronomy—navigation, timekeeping, determination of star positions, and almanac publication. As in Sydney, the Observatory was on an excellent elevated position overlooking the city.



*The Royal Observatory*

However, over time this observatory's operations were gradually transferred from Greenwich to Herstmonceux in Sussex, where it stayed from 1948 to 1957, in a search for clearer skies. Subsequently it was moved to the Institute of Astronomy of the University of Cambridge in 1990. A controversial cost-cutting measure in 1997 then brought about the shutdown of the observatory in 1998. The institution's equipment and operations were consolidated under the UK Astronomy Technology Centre, headquartered at the Royal Observatory Edinburgh. *However, Observatory Hill in London had another use!* On any Sunday before 1830 the naval pensioners of Greenwich hospital, dressed in their Sunday best tricorne hats and blue uniforms, could be found under the trees near the Observatory in the park along with hundreds of other folk seeking Sunday entertainment. While they traded their old yarns of Trafalgar, Napoleon and the Nile, their telescopes were trained down across the London landscape, and in particular across a forest of masts and docks on the Thames River.



*Views down over the docks*

While the ships on the River spoke loud of Britain's naval power, the sightseers had come to view a more macabre show of naval power – Wapping's Execution Dock. For a penny they could hire a telescope and view the victims of Britain's naval justice system, and see the men in chains!



Execution Dock was used for 400 years up until 1830, set up during the 15th century by the British Admiralty and used to execute all seagoing criminals, including pirates, mutineers, and smugglers. The dock was nothing more than scaffolding used for hangings and was located beside the shoreline of the River Thames at Wapping.

The British Admiralty's legal jurisdiction was for all crimes committed at sea. The Dock symbolised that jurisdiction by being located just beyond the low-tide mark in the river. An execution at the Dock usually meant that crowds lined the river's banks or chartered boats moored in the Thames to get a better view of the hanging. Families would come out and stand on the riverbanks and up in the Park, view the scene by telescopes from on high, or cluster on one of the boats that would come up the river.

Executions were conducted by the hangmen who worked at either Tyburn or Newgate Prison. Unlike hangings on land, such as at Tyburn, the bodies of the executed at Execution Dock were not immediately cut down following death. Customarily, these corpses were left hanging until at least three tides had washed over their heads. This practice stopped at the end of the 18th century. In the cases of the most notorious offenders, the Admiralty would order that their bodies be tarred and hung in chains nearby as a warning to all seafarers of the fate awaiting those who turned to piracy.



Sunday entertainment



The alleged Dock site with replica noose

Captain Kidd was one of those who met his fate here. The last executions to take place at Execution Dock were in 1830, where two sailors who had murdered a ship captain were hanged in December.

The actual site of Execution Dock is disputed, as the original gallows are long gone, although a replica is still in place near the site.

The Royal Observatory remains a historic precinct with expansive views over London and the Thames, without the gruesome details of early England.

*Patsy Moppett*

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*Went the Day Well? David Crane 2015*

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*History of the Royal Observatory, www.rmg.co.uk*

*Execution Dock, www.thevintsgenews.com*

### ***Rolnor Park, Blackheath - a most unusual public area***

John Pope (1827-1912) was a prominent Sydney businessman and Mayor of Ashfield (1872-1873, 1885<sup>1</sup>) who was one of the early purchasers of parcels of land in Blackheath. On the north side of Govetts Leap Road, and west of Cleopatra Street, he developed the 12 acre

(4.85 ha) Portion 63 into a renowned country estate with extensive orchards, vegetable gardens, a concrete swimming bath and a nine-hole golf course<sup>2</sup>; he named it *Karaweera* and owned it until 28 October 1947<sup>3</sup>. Today that property is called *Parklands* (132-174 Govetts Leap Road<sup>4</sup>) and it has different buildings and layout but is equally resplendent.

John William and Agnes Eliza Pope had six children: Alfred John (c.1859-1928), Alice Maude (1861-1894) [who married Archibald A. Boyd in 1891<sup>5</sup>], Roland James (1864-1952), Parke William (1868-1955), Percy Vaughan (1870-1871), and Handel Norman (1872-1950). When John Pope died in 1912 it was his third son who inherited the Blackheath properties<sup>6</sup> and Parke continued to develop *Karaweera*. But his attention soon turned to the land east of Cleopatra Street (Portions 64, 65 & 66) which he bought from William Cary<sup>7</sup> and retained until 1947. He had that land surveyed for subdivision in 1916<sup>8</sup> and shown parallel to Govetts Leap Road are the planned four roads “creatively” named First, Second, Third and Fourth Streets! There were to be undeveloped blocks of land between trios of Lots (e.g. Figure 3), hence 5 trios and 15 Lots on each side of the new streets, so making a total of 120 occupiable blocks (excluding those on the N side of Fourth Street which now are designated “Public Reserve” but including those on the N side of Govetts Leap Road between Cleopatra and Clarence Streets). In addition, between Third and Fourth streets there was to be a strip of undeveloped land (about one block wide and with the same alignment as the streets) that was initially named *ROLNOR PARK RESERVES*<sup>9</sup> (Figure 1; also Figure 2) and technically is still so named<sup>10</sup>. All that undeveloped land was to comprise a park commonly known as Rolnor Park - a name created from the given names of Parke’s brothers ROLand James and Handel NORman. Those undeveloped areas remain so but Rolnor Park has few tracks and in places it is a “jungle” that is rather forbidding (Figure 3).

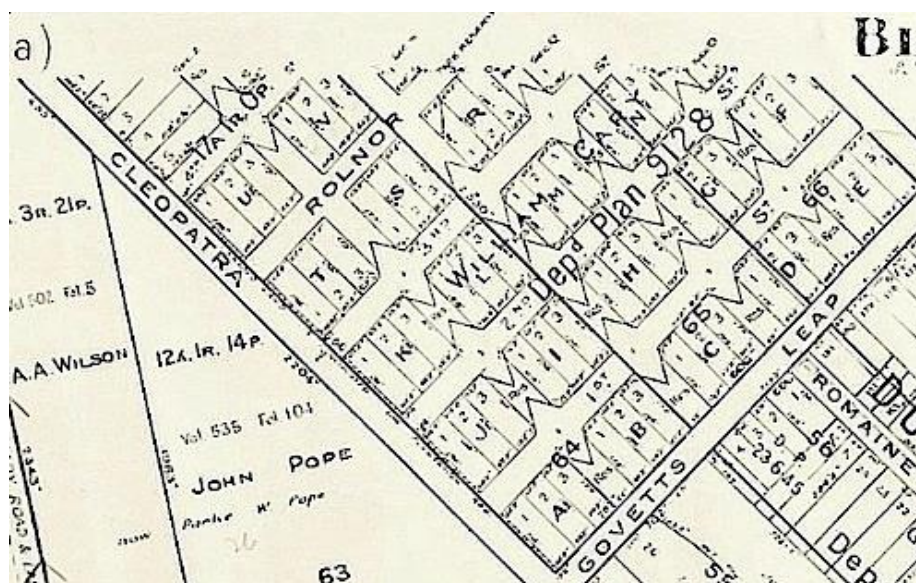


Figure 1. Part of the Robinson (4 chains to an inch) Map, Sheet 60<sup>11</sup>

The lots in that subdivision were advertised for sale in 1919 (Figure 2) in what was called Blackheath Ideal Estate but they were poorly marketed as no other advertisement has been found.

Sales of land lots must have been sluggish until after WWII (e.g. Reference <sup>13</sup>). No buildings are evident on a 1932 aerial photograph and judging by ICV (Improved Capital Value) figures on rates records, the first buildings appeared in the late 1950s and by 1960 there were only five. Only c.20 buildings are discernible in Rolnor Park on the aerial photograph taken in 1979<sup>14</sup> after lots had been on sale for 60 years. Presently all the lots seem to have been purchased but even today there remain some parcels of land that have not been developed, especially on the S side of Fourth Street<sup>15</sup>.



**THE BLACKHEATH ESTATE IDEAL**

H. DUDLEY, SURVEYOR, OFFICE, OPPOSITE STATION, BLACKHEATH, N.S.W.

**THE DESIGN OF THIS SUBDIVISION HAS BEEN COPYRIGHTED.**

**NO BUILDING COVENANT UNDER \$300.**

**A BIG DISCOUNT 10% FOR CASH.**

**LOOK THE TERMS AT AS EASY AS DEPOSIT**

**TORRENS TITLE**

*William A. Chadwick*  
SURVEYOR  
Ocean House, Moore St. City

**BALANCE BY EASY MONTHLY INSTALLMENTS - 5% INTEREST**

**ROWLAND H. SHORTER**  
SOLICITOR  
Bills Chambers, Moore St. City

Figure 2. Advertisement. H. Dudley (1919)<sup>12</sup>

A Rolnor Park Residents' Group was formed on 26 October 1996 and was active in the late 1990s<sup>16</sup>. As Rolnor Park lies within the Popes Glen Catchment area, in the first year the Group was primarily concerned with road surfaces as urban runoff, and siltation thereby, was deemed by Council to be a problem. Indeed, Council considered it best tackled by sealing roads but this proposal was somewhat contentious; nevertheless sealing was done in 1998. Then it was kerb and guttering that occupied the Group's time for much of the second year although the other topic was bushfire mitigation in respect to land on the N side of Fourth Street and undeveloped areas in and between Third and Fourth Streets (Rolnor Park Reserves). Bushcare was the practical activity throughout and in 2001 the Group was awarded a "Certificate of Appreciation" by the Mayor.

Maintenance of Rolnor Park has been sporadic and when Council has done some work some of the local residents have tended to object<sup>17</sup>. In 2019 most undeveloped sections of the Park are overgrown (Figure 3) yet the nature strips on Govetts Leap Road have been manicured.

Peter C Rickwood





**Figure 3.** Rolnor Park Bushland Reserve.

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- <sup>2</sup> Anonymous (1890) Our Holiday Resorts; an artist's wanderings in the Blue Mountains. (continued from last issue). *Blackheath: A Model Mountain Residence*. *The Illustrated Sydney News*, 6 March 1890, pp.21-23.
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- <sup>5</sup> Anonymous (1891) no title. *Sydney Mail & NSW Advertiser*, 17 January 1891, p.127, col.1.
- <sup>6</sup> Anonymous (1912) Will of the late John Pope. *The Sun*, 24 February 1912, p.3, col.7.
- <sup>7</sup> Certificates of Title Vol. 555, Fol. 221/222/223; 6 September 1881. (Land Titles Office, Sydney)
- <sup>8</sup> Chadwick, W.A. (1916) Plan of Subdivision of Portions 64 65 & 66, Parish of Blackheath, Count of Cook. DP 8890, 12 January 1916.
- <sup>9</sup> Sheets 48 & 60 of Maps of the Blue Mountains. Scale 4 chains to an inch. H.E.C. Robinson Pty. Ltd., Sydney; Compiled to the order of the City of the Blue Mountains Council. c.1915. [Blue Mountains Historical Society Inc. (mounted and rolled); Blue Mountains City Council Library, Local Studies, Springwood; Mitchell Library XX/9 v.1]
- <sup>10</sup> Blue Mountains City Council Maps © City of Blue Mountains 2018 © Spatial Services 2018  
[http://emapping.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/connect/analyst/mobile/?mapcfg=Locality - /main?mapcfg=Locality](http://emapping.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/connect/analyst/mobile/?mapcfg=Locality-/main?mapcfg=Locality) <Accessed 22.9.2019>
- <sup>11</sup> Reference <sup>9</sup>.
- <sup>12</sup> Dudley, H. (1919) p.86 in *Wilson's Street Directory of Sydney and Suburbs*. 17th Edition. 1919. [Also see Mitchell Library ZTP: B8/55 and CP: C4/36]
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- <sup>16</sup> Rolnor Park Residents Group File [Blue Mountains Historical Society Inc. (Archives)]
- <sup>17</sup> Anonymous (1998) "Massacre" in Blackheath. *Blue Mountains Gazette*, 24 June 1998, p.26, cols.3-4.



## ***The Technical Side***

### ***Australian Magic Research Project - Report of the Victorian Field Season***

*Third Field Season - 8<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019*

Another seriously technical investigation has been undertaken by the Australian Magic Research Project team, looking at candle smoke burns on ceilings and in cellars, hexafoils (more correctly multifoils) and concentric circles in dwellings all used for "*apotropaic intent*" ie. a type of magic intended to turn away harm or evil influences, deflecting misfortune or averting the evil eye.

A two-week season of fieldwork was conducted by the group in the Western Districts of Victoria during July. The work was made possible by funding from the UK Vernacular Architecture Group and with aid and assistance from Federation University, Ballarat. Field researchers included Tully Brookes, location scout from Adelaide, Dr. David Waldron, historian from Federation University, and Ian Evans OAM, PhD. They were looking for evidence of the use of magic in outbuildings on rural properties and in regional towns and villages.



Multifoil



Concentric circles

The principal objective of the season was to determine whether the magic they had found previously in Tasmania was also used in mainland Australia. This objective was achieved. Once again, just as in Tasmania, they found evidence of the use of magic by blacksmiths, building tradesmen, cunning folk and horsemen.

Additionally, it is now clear that *cauls* were used for protection against drowning. This is the magic of mariners but has now been found to have been employed by people who lived in proximity to rivers or who crossed fast-flowing streams or bodies of water in the course of their daily work herding sheep or cattle.

It was believed in the 19th century that anyone who carried a caul would never drown. Sailors prized cauls for their protective powers against their greatest fear – drowning.

In May 1838 a shepherd named John Brown was driving sheep from Major H. C. Antill's property at Molonglo Plains to Stonequarry Creek when he was accosted by three men who robbed him of cash and his jacket, in the collar of which a caul had been sewn. Although he was far from the sea, Brown's work involved driving sheep through rivers and streams. The caul sewn into the collar of his jacket was to protect him from the perils of the rivers and streams of the Molonglo Plains district.

To be "*born with the caul*" is when a baby or a child is born with a portion of the amniotic sac or membrane remaining on the head. A caul (Latin: *Caput galeatum*, literally, "head helmet") is a thin, filmy membrane, the amnion, that can cover a newborn's head and face immediately after birth.



*A caul*



*Candle burn marks on wall*

This is only one aspect of the fascinating research carried out by the team in regard to magic traditions brought across from Britain and Europe by early colonialists.

The full Report of the third Field Season in Victoria can be viewed at:

<https://tasmagic.wordpress.com/2019/09/21/report-of-the-victorian-field-season-8-23-july-2019/>

*Ian Evans, OAM, Phd*

[www.tasmagic.wordpress.com](http://www.tasmagic.wordpress.com)

## **Community events & updates**

### ***Birdland***

*(an exhibition of works by artists in response to the ornithological collection of the Mount Victoria Museum)*

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2019, the Mount Victoria Museum opens its doors to the first contemporary art exhibition to be held alongside its collection. Curated by Miriam Williamson, and funded by the Blue Mountains City Council, City of Arts Trust, *Birdland* has invited four local artists to develop works in response to the bird specimen collections held by the Museum.

The museum holds the collection of Charles Melbourne (Mel) Ward, a fellow of the Zoological Society, London, honorary zoologist at the Australian Museum and a member of the Linnean and Anthropological societies of NSW and the Art Galleries and Museums Association of Australia. As was common in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Ward travelled throughout South East Asia and Papua New Guinea collecting artefacts and zoological specimens including a fine collection of birds of paradise. He published in Australian and international scientific journals.



*From the collection: photographs by Jacqueline Spedding*

In 1943 Ward moved to the Blue Mountains and opened his Gallery of Natural History and Native Art in a long, narrow fibro building at the Hydro Majestic Hotel, Medlow Bath. On his death his collection was divided between the Australian Museum and the Mt Victoria Museum.

As a tribute to Ward's legacy, artists with experience in museology, zoology and/or natural history were selected for the project:

- Artist Jacqueline Spedding, a ceramicist and curator, worked as Collections Officer at Sydney University Museums;
- Brad Allen-Waters, a self-taught multi-disciplinary artist, worked at the Australian Museum applying his skills on the fabrication, exhibition design and maintenance of dinosaur and fossil displays;
- Artist Pamela Vaughan has been a finalist in both the Dobell and Sulman art prizes with her works depicting animals. She is a senior lecturer in drawing at the National Art School and has run residencies at Taronga Park Zoo;
- Installation artist Emma Rooney has been observing birdlife in the Blue Mountains World Heritage area for many years. Her attention to detail depicts the intricacies of the natural world she documents and records.

Curator, Miriam Williamson acknowledges the generosity and trust extended to them by the Committee of the Museum of Mount Victoria and their team of volunteers. They look forward to working with the museum on this collaboration. The exhibition will be open at 2pm on Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> November with guest speaker Emily Jateff, the Curator, Ocean Science & Technology at the Australian Maritime Museum. The exhibition runs until the 1<sup>st</sup> December during museum opening hours.

Contact Miriam Williamson: Ph: 0409 032 211, [miriam@southernphone.com.au](mailto:miriam@southernphone.com.au)

Director: [www.thealtitudeproject.com](http://www.thealtitudeproject.com)

Co-Director: [www.theslab.net.au](http://www.theslab.net.au)

**Addendum:** It is also noted that author and historian **Jim Smith** will be launching his book on Mel Ward (Blue Mountains museum operator and natural historian) at the Mt Victoria Museum at **2pm 16th November 2019**. All welcome. Jim's book will be available for purchase on the day, and from the museum on an ongoing basis.

### ***Blue Mountains Community Involvement in Heritage Heritage Forum/Expo 2020***

At its meeting of 27 August 2019 Blue Mountains City Council accepted a range of recommendations from Elton Consulting regarding more broad community involvement in heritage in the BMCC local government area, including consideration of forums and workshops. A working group has been formed which has proposed staging of a Heritage Expo or Forum in 2020 as a measure designed to educate and inform the public with regard to heritage in the Blue Mountains.

The Forum/Expo Committee will act as a working group of Council's Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC), with representation from interest groups such as BMACHO, National Trust, the Chamber of Commerce, BMEE and other heritage organisations.

The objective of the Forum/Expo will be for positive promotion of heritage appreciation throughout the local government area.

The event will be promoted by the National Trust as an event of the annual Australian Heritage Festival. It is envisaged as being a two day event and hopefully comprising exhibitions, lectures, discussions, talks and tours, on the weekend of 16-17<sup>th</sup> May 2020. The talks will be held on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May to allow attendance by delegates of BMACHO's Blue Mountains History Conference, which is scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> May.



## AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

A range of exhibitors and exhibits are being considered, and heritage resources such as fact sheets, heritage kits and walks will be available. The event will host trade exhibits such as stonemasons, painters, carpenters etc., and will involve heritage professionals, business houses, and accommodation and dining venues, galleries and hotels. Tours will include the Blue Mountains and Lithgow, garden tours and heritage trails, and successful heritage restoration and/or conservation examples will be showcased.

Current event planning is considering venues for the proposed lectures, exhibits and displays, tour possibilities, choice of display material, exhibitors and publicity.

BMACHO will be represented on the working group Committee and will endeavour to provide publicity to the event as much as possible, particularly through its membership and networking opportunities.

The working group Committee are happy to receive recommendations and suggestions at any time, particularly with regard to possible exhibitors, venues, and resource material.

*BMACHO will continue to provide updates on the development of the event through its email network and via its Heritage Newsletter.*

*To find out more about the event, and/or make suggestions, please contact:*

*Ron Powell*

*Landscape Architect & Stone Consultant*

*Powell & Associates P/L*

*[ronfpowell@hotmail.com](mailto:ronfpowell@hotmail.com)*

### ***Mt Victoria & District Historical Society***

The Society held its Annual General Meeting at Mt Victoria on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2019, which was attended by a large group. Following the President's Report, which reviewed the previous year's activities, Jack Thompson presented a very interesting talk about the various businesses and activities which have operated in the town over the years. Most of the information was from his own memory, or from information provided by family and other residents. What a busy little town it was, being a coming together place of transport and goods to and from the west and Sydney by horse, road and rail!

A new Committee was elected:

President: Tim K Jones

Vice president: Barbara Palmer

Secretary: Peter Lammiman

Treasurer: Jack Thompson

Committee: Stephen Davis, Jean Winston, Roy Bennett, Dr Sue Barclay & Kay Graham

### ***Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society***

A successful AGM was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September at St David's Uniting Church Hall, Kurrajong Heights.

Office Bearers and the new Committee are as follows:

President: David Griffiths

Vice President: Steve Rawling

Secretary: Marguerite Wyborn

Treasurer: Pat O'Toole



Committee Members: Suzanne Smith, Jenny Griffiths, Airdrie Martin, Terry Murray, Leslie Bobridge.

The 2019 AGM was followed by a General Meeting with guest speaker Trish Butler giving insights into the work of Hawkesbury Stream Watch.

### ***BMACHO Conference 2020: Industrial Heritage***

Plans are well under way for the 2020 Conference, "*Industrial Heritage*". The Conference will be held on Saturday 16 May 2018, at the Union Theatre, Lithgow. **SAVE THE DATE!** Speakers are currently being confirmed and the Committee is quite excited about the quality of presentations that are coming together. The keynote address will be by Ray Christison, Chair of Museums & Galleries NSW.



*Eskbank Railway Station*



*Small Arms Factory Museum*



*Blast Furnace Park*

Other subjects may include the railways, mining & quarries, iron and steel, the people who paved the way, Scenic World, housing estates, the Small Arms factory, the Lithgow pottery – there is such a huge variety of subject matter to be considered under this theme, and from a significant centre of industrial heritage at the western end of the Blue Mountains region at Katoomba, Lithgow, Hartley and Mount Victoria. Each of these activities is significant for very different reasons, but all were interwoven to generate the landscapes we see, or don't see, today.

Accommodation is available within Lithgow and Mount Victoria, and train access takes you to within walking distance of the venue. Trade tables will be available.

Costs and booking details will be published in the New Year via the BMACHO website and within the first Newsletter issues of 2020.

**Attention: It should be noted that the Conference will be dedicated to Emeritis Professor Dr Ian Jack, who passed away in early September 2019, the President of BMACHO, and who was to be the keynote speaker.**

Attendees will note that there will be an opportunity for attendees to also visit the Heritage Expo/Forum at Katoomba on the Sunday.

*Patsy Moppett*

### ***HISTORY WALKS PROGRAMME 2020***

**Glenbrook & District Historical Society Inc.**

All walks are held on Saturdays, led by Doug Knowles & Greg Nowland

**Feb. 29 9.00am "Glenbrook Lagoon Precinct."** Early campsite and railway dam construction 1880 for water supply to the 1<sup>st</sup> Glenbrook Station.

**Mar. 14 9.00am "The Descent to the West:"** Mt. York: Three short return walks on the three most historic roads to the West: Cox's Pass 1815, Lawson's Road 1822 and newest: Berghofer's Pass 1909. Includes tea, coffee, biscuits.  
**Special Walk: \$12.00**

**April 11 9.00am "Duck Hole—Glenbrook Creek."** Old roadway construction pump site for railway water supply to old Glenbrook Station.

**May 2 1.30pm “Eastern Zig Zag Railway.”** This walk is focussed on the Knapsack Gully stone viaduct and offers good photograph opportunities. Includes Gatehouse No. 1 - 1867, and the Knapsack refuge sidings - 1909.

**23 1.30pm “Eastern Zig Zag Railway.”** This walk on the 1867 Zig Zag Railway and Knapsack Viaduct, also extends to the first improvement, the Lapstone Hill Tunnel 1892 (East Portal only,) and the wash-away section - 1906.

**June 6 1.30pm “The Mountains Murders.”** Captain Lee Weller’s murder site and first grave. Also rock inscriptions.

**27 1.30pm “Cox’s Road at Linden:”** Explore this remaining section along the Ridge-top.

**July 11 9.00am “Bull’s Creek Dam.”** Railway water supply. Stone dam, pump site, pipeline relics.

**Aug 1 1.30pm “Lapstone Construction Railway.”** 1910-1913 and east portal of Lapstone Hill Tunnel - 1892.

**22 9.00am “Faulconbridge Steam Sawmill Site.”** Engine remnants, huge boiler and other relics. Operated 1914-1925.

**Sept. 5 1.30pm “Lennox Bridge,”** and the old stone quarry, Brookside Creek, Dunn’s steam sawmill relics and earth dam.

**NEW 26 9.00am “Warrimoo Lookout.”** Follow the ridge top south of Warrimoo. Panoramic views of Glenbrook Creek.

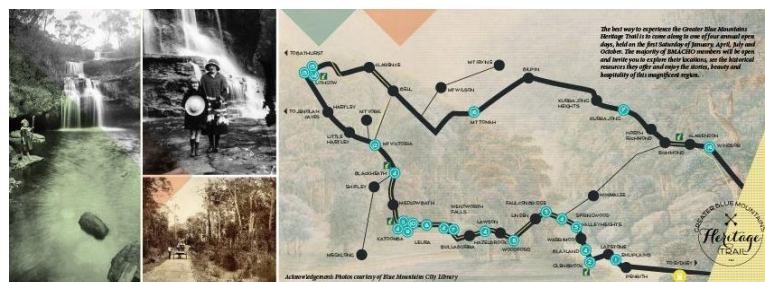
**Oct. 10 9.00am “Glenbrook Discovery: Heritage Walk.”** Historic sites, houses, and the 1892 railway route to Lapstone Tunnel, West Portal.  
**(Last Walk for the season.)**

**ADULTS: \$10.00 (Except for Special Walk.) Accompanied children under 16yrs. - free.**

**BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL:** Phone Doug on 02 4751 3275. Please allow the phone to ring longer than usual, for details re meeting place, time and grade of walk. Good walking shoes are essential. Please bring a hat and drinking water. (No dogs please.)

**BAD WEATHER ON THE DAY:** Excessive wind or rain could cause cancellation due to hazardous conditions.

### ***Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail Update***



BMACHO continues to promote the Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail and members' upcoming events. The Trail, which commenced in 2015, 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 reprinted the Heritage Trail brochure in 2019 and it has been distributed to visitors' centres across the region.

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

### **BMACHO equipment available for loan**

Liven up your presentations!!! A picture is worth a thousand words! BMACHO can help you make presentations to your members or guests more attractive and lively with visual aids which are available for loan.

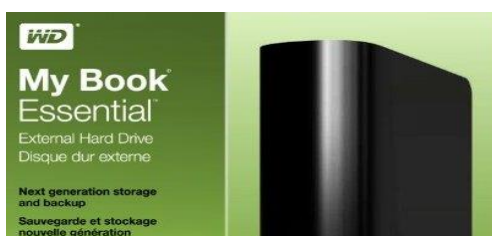


The following equipment is available for loan:

- Camera: Nikon P50 digital compact  
8.1 megapixels  
3.6 x Zoom wide angle lens  
Long life rechargeable batteries and charger, user guide, carrying case all included.
- Laptop computer: to help you prepare your presentations or play DVD's etc.
- Digital Projector: we can provide the appropriate connection to our own computer or any VGA equipped laptop to show your masterpiece. *(Please note that users of Apple computers will need to provide their own Apple-to-VGA connection).*
- Screen on which to show your masterpiece.

Also, we can store your masterpiece:

- My Book External Hard Drive, 1 TB/To with USB 3.0 + USB 2.0 100% compatible. This can be used to store your photographs of sites or other items on an external hard drive away from your own premises.



*Photo and document storage*

For details, please contact Jan Koperberg, [j.koperberg@bigpond.com](mailto:j.koperberg@bigpond.com)





Christmas 1883

*Merry Christmas  
&  
a Happy & Safe New Year to All!*



## BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

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

**Email:** [committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au](mailto:committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au) or [j.koperberg@bigpond.com](mailto:j.koperberg@bigpond.com)

**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.

**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 Mountain Education & Research Trust; Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mt Tomah; Blue Mountains City Library; Blue Mountains Cultural Heritage Centre; 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; 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, Ian Milliss, Patsy Moppett, Keith Painter, Dr Peter Rickwood & Dr Robert Strange.

**Committee:** The management committee for 2019-2020 (from September 2019) is: Patsy Moppett (Acting 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: Patsy Moppett, Jan Koperberg, Summar Hipworth, Phil Hammon.

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