Heritage

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Acknowledgement of Country

BMACHO acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Chinese heritage in the Blue Mountains region

Records are limited with regard to the first arrival of the Chinese people in Australia. The gold rush certainly triggered mass migration from across the world, and this included Chinese people. Many came as labourers such as shepherds, cooks, gardeners and farm workers. Others came specifically to make their fortunes in the gold fields, or at least found they were able to provide support services to other gold miners.

Chinese people are considered to be the oldest continuous immigrants to Australia outside of those from Great Britain. This migration shaped and influenced Australian immigration policy for over a hundred years. But despite attitudes and restrictions many people with Chinese heritage have left their mark on Australian history and are fondly remembered, including in the Blue Mountains.



Chinese workers and travellers - note the kangaroos to the left hand side of the picture

They were often subjected to discrimination, prejudice and general anti-Chinese sentiment. Called "celestials" (children of the sun), they were viewed by large sections of society with suspicion and racism because of their different language, dress, food and customs. As most previous settlement in the colony had been by Europeans, particularly the British, when confronted with the very different Chinese culture in all its forms, the immediate reaction was hostility, often a fear of the unknown. However, many Chinese people were well regarded and industrious, making significant contributions to the Australian community over time. Other nationalities such as the Italians, Germans and Dutch also faced intolerance and bias, but to a lesser degree.

The earliest Chinese contact with Australia may have been back in the 15th century from fishermen searching the north-western coastline of Australia for sandalwood and sea cucumbers. Chinese sources refer to a 1477 map that shows the outline of the Australian continent, and Chinese traders were recorded as visiting the north coast of Australia from the 1750s, with many early ships to the colony having Chinese sailors on board.

The earliest known Chinese immigrant to arrive in Sydney is reported to have been Mak Sai Ying, who arrived as a free settler in NSW in 1818 and purchased land at Parramatta. In 1829 Mak Sai Ying was granted the license for *The Lion*, a public house at Parramatta. His descendants became cabinet-makers and undertakers in Sydney.

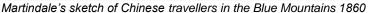
With the transportation of convicts to NSW ceasing in 1840 (except for political prisoners), a shortfall occurred in the labour supply in the colony, and agents responded by shipping out labourers from China, including the Australian Agricultural Company.

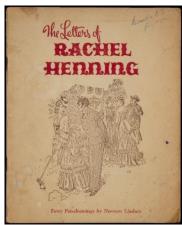
Conditions in China by this time were difficult, with environmental, economic and political difficulties and a significant rise in population putting pressure on available resources, so the response to opportunities for work in Australia was high. There were foreign invasions, rebellions, severe floods and famines between the years 1849 and 1887.

On arrival in Australia, Chinese labourers were assigned numerous jobs that helped to open up the growing settlement. Jobs included clearing the bush, digging wells and irrigation ditches, and working as shepherds on the new properties. Many new immigrants also started market gardens. John Macarthur for instance, had Chinese people working on his property in the 1820s.

The next Chinese who arrived in any numbers are believed to have crossed the Blue Mountains in the 1850s on their way to the goldfields to places like Sofala, Ophir and Hill End. The first reference to Chinese settlers in the area was in an article in the Blue Mountains Echo in 1891 about Ah Poy. They generally established themselves as market gardeners and settled in their own separate camps. These camps were their own little communities, and to the Europeans these were notorious and exotic places.







Henning's Letters 1954

In 1861 Rachel Henning described in her letters what Mary Martindale had painted in 1860: We met some the other day, evidently newly arrived from China, with broad flat hats with a little point in the middle, like ancient shields, and carrying their property slung at each end of a stick and balanced over their shoulders, exactly like the little men crossing the bridge on the willow-pattern plates.

As mining became less profitable Chinese miners then became increasingly involved in and successful at market gardening, storekeeping (including importing and exporting), furniture making, the growing and wholesaling of bananas, fishing and the pearl diving industry. Chinese communities across Australia grew socially and politically more complex with the development of Chinese newspapers and political and business associations, being particularly interested in events occurring in homeland China.

Most Chinese people are believed to have left the Mountains by the 1930s and 1940s when bigger market gardening cooperatives began cornering the market, and war intervened. Few Chinese names are recorded in any of the Blue Mountains cemeteries. Most returned to their homeland after the gold rush, but many also headed back to the larger Australian centres where they took up their usual occupations. The coming of the railways may have provided employment for some. In the Blue Mountains market gardens were common, and were to be found at Blackheath, Hazelbrook, Katoomba, Medlow Bath, Mt Victoria at least, and in the Megalong Valley. Blackheath had the most well known, on the site of the current golf course where many Chinese families worked. Katoomba's market garden was near the present day Katoomba Falls caravan park. In 1958 it is reported that a large group of Chinese were camped by the highway at Springwood. Mark Foy of the Hydro Majestic obviously had an affection for the Chinese as many worked for him over the years both at Medlow Bath and in Sydney, including waiters, gardeners and in the kitchen. Many Chinese moved away from Sydney during the Second World War due to the impending threat of a Japanese invasion, and many of these were located at Katoomba.

Words – kind and unkind

In 1855, the first anti-Chinese legislation was passed in the British colonial world, when the Victorian government sought to restrict the number of Chinese through imposing a tax for each Chinese person arriving in the colony, plus a restriction on the number of Chinese people allowed to disembark in Melbourne to one Chinese person for every 10 tonnes of shipping. In 1857, South Australia limited Chinese immigration by imposing a £10 poll tax on all Chinese people entering the colony. Subsequently NSW and other states passed similar legislation. Generally, the laws were designed to stop Chinese people making their way into Australia but also to prevent movement between the various gold diggings in the separate colonies.

Discrimination was rife, and in 1861 in an attempt to encourage the construction of the railway over the Blue Mountains, one "C.B." wrote in the Bathurst Free Press & Mining Journal, that "merchants and others having large interests at stake in Sydney", to avoid Sydney becoming a third rate city, the line should be built to enable commerce and goods such as wool and copper, to access Sydney rather than Newcastle, and to "avoid Bathurst's fine buildings being converted to joss houses (as it appears to be swamped by Chinese)". Rather an exaggeration, but a sign of the sentiment of the time, as joss houses were invariably temples, but seen by Europeans as opium dens.







Impression of Chinese at Springwood

Arthur Streeton spoke out in 1895 from the Blue Mountains, in regard to tramps and hawkers in the country. He drew the reader's attention to an instance where a woman was buying vegetables from a Chinese person, who supposedly made a rude and unpleasant remark, and was so insulted that she could not even tell her husband. Streeton commented that "the wretch ... ought to have been beaten or shot....... They carry their rubbish baskets from town to town, cheat, steal and use violence". He suggested that women should be in the habit of keeping a gun, or at least a bulldog on the premises for protection!!!

A writer from Pulpit Hill in the Blue Mountains to the Empire in 1861 tells of the Chinaman's itch, a serious skin malady apparently attributed to the Chinese. He was apparently a

sufferer and asked why the "Tartar hordes" should be admitted to young Australia, who had long been noted for her exemption of infectious diseases.

References to the Chinese include comments such as a *batch of relations to the sun, moon and stars*, the *celestials* and more unkindly *these most undesirable colonists*, although some suggested that in spite of their number they were *guilty of very few outrages*. Newspapers reported their arrivals in Sydney as the Chinese Invasion.

However, an instance was recorded in the Illawarra Mercury in 1858 about the care some Chinese people would go to help their fellow countrymen. A party of newly arrived Chinese set off from Sydney to travel to the western goldfields. One of their number was so ill he could not walk and was carried on the back across the Blue Mountains by various members of their group. The words were reported with surprise, as previous experiences had heard "narratives of a contrary character", with regard to how the Chinese treated their own. A report in the Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser in 1886 was commenting on the import of vegetables to Australia when we could so well produce our own. It commented on the indebtedness Australia holds to the Chinese who with patient industry and irrigation, were able to meet the supply in their market gardens. Visitors to the Blue Mountains were eating produce from Melbourne when there was the richest of garden land in the valleys close by run by Chinese gardeners.

Chinese recollections

Concerns for their people back in China led to two Chinese officials visiting Australia in July 1887 for some 10 days. Various Chinese merchants met them in Sydney and then the Commissioners visited the Blue Mountains to attend on the local Chinese community there, seeking to view the towns where their people had settled and the walks of life in which their countrymen were engaged. They were accompanied by Lord and Lady Brassey, Dr George On Lee and Quong Tart of the Chinese elite community and were guests of the Premier Sir Henry Parkes. They travelled by train to Lithgow and then returned to Faulconbridge for lunch. One wonders how many fellow Chinese they were able to encounter in this short time. Few artifacts have been found in the Mountains to attest to Chinese occupation. However, there are many newspaper reports of Chinese in the Blue Mountains which register that they were there, mainly as market gardeners, shopkeepers or grocers, sometimes delivering goods collected in Sydney. Many carried out home deliveries in their carts, moving up and down the mountains. Even though their experiences are unfortunately often recorded as a result of accidents or legal action, the stories still elaborate on their lives and activities, and community attitudes towards them:

- Willie May Ting was a Chinese market gardener at Blackheath, who delivered to his customers via a Ford motor lorry. One day in June 1929 his lorry escaped him whilst he was delivering to a customer and careered down Tourmaline Street, coming to a stop at the bottom. Many locals were on hand to assist and eventually the truck was retrieved. In January 1930 when his truck failed to take a sharp turn on the Great Western Highway at Katoomba, Willie (aged 32) was pinned underneath the vehicle. When taken to Blue Mountains Hospital, he was found to have a fractured skull. He was recorded as being a Chinese fruiterer returning from Sydney with a load of vegetables. Earlier he had given a pedestrian a lift at Hazelbrook, but the passenger was unhurt.
- Charlie, a market gardener from Blackheath, was thrown from his cart in December 1909, receiving serious head injuries. He was taken to Penrith Hospital. Together with his two partners, he was decidedly popular and noted for his charitable disposition.
- An old Chinese doctor was known to be at Katoomba in about 1910. Known to
 Mountaineers, and was a very clever old man, effecting many great cures using for
 remedies most queer Chinese drugs, which were often hard to get. He was also
 known to relate many old Chinese weird stories and legends.
- Tommy On Sing was robbed of gold, silver and copper to the value of about £6 from his cart between Katoomba and Blackheath in April 1897. The culprit was caught with

- £6 on his person, the values of the goods, and was remanded at the Katoomba police station until the following week.
- Katoomba Court dealt with the matter of Ah Nam who was summoned to show why he should not have to give up possession of land at Katoomba. Frederick Ayres, a gardener of Lawson, had leased some land to Ah Nam, on which a slab house was erected. The land was for sale, but the Chinaman wanted to use it as a garden. Ayres said he could do so but would have to get off when the property was sold. No written agreement was entered into. No rent had been paid. When Ayres came to evict the man he refused to go, and so Ayres took him to court. Neither side could prove what was agreed upon. The upshot was that the Bench declined to make an Order as it was not proven that it was a tenancy on demand.
- Charlie Lee was a market gardener from Blackheath. In June 1928 his cart was the subject of a collision with a motor cycle on the road between Blackheath and Mt Victoria. The two cycle riders were hurt, and Charlie received bruises and shock. Both vehicles were badly damaged.
- Chinaman Lin Don was killed when thrown from his cart at Blackheath in November 1909. His compatriot Ah Hee gave evidence as to what happened. Ah Hee was a gardener and resident of Blackheath. He was one of three Chinamen involved in a company at Blackheath, On Sing & Co. His partners were Lin Don and Ah Poey. Lin Don was heading to Mt Victoria with a cart load of green groceries. His load was found spread along the highway and the cart found by Mark Foy's employees at Medlow Bath. It was found his horse had bolted, the cart went over and Lin Don's head hit a rock. He was taken by train to Nepean Cottage Hospital, still unconscious. He never spoke and died soon after. He was 47 years old and had a wife and son in China, often sending money home for them. He was known as a quiet respectable man who never drank liquor.
- The Peninsular at Windsor, near the old Green Hills Burial Ground, was the site of early land grants and many significant buildings and was known as such from 1802.
 It is recorded that a Chinese market garden was located at the Peninsular, which was often inundated by flood waters.
- It was reported in March 1899 that a Chinese hawker had a narrow escape when a
 goods train bound for Penrith ran into him as he tried to cross the railway line! He
 was knocked on the shoulder and thrown clear. He was taken to Penrith to the
 Nepean Cottage Hospital where he was found to have a shattered shoulder and
 head bruising.
- The Blue Mountain Echo reported a Leura postman stating in March 1919, that upon the death of local editor Dan Ryan, that the newspaper had been taken over by a damn Chinaman.
- Jimmy War Sing operated a fruit and vegetable cart at and around Katoomba in the early 1900s. He cultivated the market garden at McRae's paddock, in a natural gully behind Loftus and Neale Streets, where there was a good water supply. Other Chinese continued the working of this land until the 1930s. Jimmy was married but had no children. He was known to be kind and generous and presented his customers with jars of ginger at Christmas time. Locals found Chinese bottles and children's toys (not Chinese) in the well at the back of 'Melrose' at 27 Loftus St. Jimmy War Sing's garden was behind this house. There is an unsubstantiated story that Jimmy married a French woman.





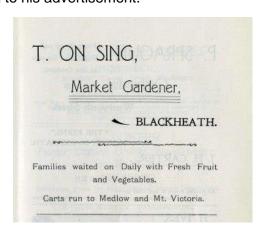


Jimmy War Sing

Charlie Go Mong

The Mar family

- "Charlie" Louie Gut Mong worked for Mark Foy at the Hydro Majestic for some 35 years. He also worked at Foy's residence at Bellevue Hill. He appears to be a man of many talents and included in his repertoire were his skills as a gardener, a cook, a cleaner, he played billiards, and developed photos, and had a marvellous memory. He was always happy and laughing. He won a Chinese lottery, went off to China and got married, but returned to live in Sydney. Charlie had been born in China in about 1871 and married there. He migrated to Australia in 1891, leaving his family behind. Over time he made many trips back to China to visit them. His wife died in China in 1912, at which Charlie was devastated. He himself died in Australia in 1921, having made arrangements for his remains to be returned to China.
- Ah Poy was a drapery hawker who visited Glenbrook and the mountains in the 1890's. He was duped into parting with his display of clothing by a couple at an inn, Henry and Ada Allen, alias Wilson. They robbed and assaulted him. Not being able to speak English he could do little but say "money?", but they ignored him. A riot broke out with the couple and their friends and the Chinaman's friends. The couple retained some of the clothing and threw the rest along with Ah Poy out into the street. Ah Poy reported to a Penrith Doctor. Subsequently Allen was fined and his lady spent a month at Parramatta!
- Around 1903, T On Sing was a market gardener at Blackheath. He would wait on families daily with fresh fruit and vegetables, running carts to Medlow and Mt. Victoria, according to his advertisement.



- Wong Ah Tong was the nanny who cared for Mark Foy's grandchildren at the Hydro Majestic at Medlow Bath.
- Leong Wah Mar (export company directory) and his family were one of the groups who relocated to Katoomba from Sydney during World War II.
- Large areas of cauliflowers were noted as being planted in February 1931 along the Hawkesbury near Windsor (Wilberforce, Freeman's Reach and Cornwallis), led by the Chinese and followed by other local farmers.
- Theft of seeds was a matter for the court at Richmond in June 1934. Messrs Edward
 and Spencer Long [sic] Australian born Chinese market gardeners, were accused of
 stealing cauliflower and tomato seed and other items from farms at Cornwallis and

Wilberforce. The theft included farm machinery from Chinese gardener Ming Sing Mow (also known as Chu Kee) of Cornwallis, and personal items from market gardener Lin Sun of Wilberforce. Another gardener mentioned in the report was a neighbour at Cornwallis, Ah Lee.

The Chinese Legacy

Chinese occupation has also been recognized through place naming. There are several features known as Chinaman's Cave, and also Chinaman's Gully. One Chinaman's Cave is located behind the Hydro Majestic at Medlow Bath. The understanding is that Charlie Go Mong (see above) terraced the land behind the hotel for growing vegetables, as he was the gardener and cook at the Hydro. The cave was supposedly occupied by Charlie for some purpose. Another Chinaman's Cave is located halfway up Mitchell's Pass at Lapstone, where the body of a Chinese man was found in the cave possibly in the 1850s. Chinaman's Gully and Chinaman's Cave at Mt Solitary are not related directly to the Chinese. An interesting aspect of colonial attitudes to China is the idea entertained by early escaped convicts who headed into the wilderness. Their aim was to seek freedom, to find new settlements where they might take refuge, or to endeavour to find the path - to China! These escapees were often called Chinese travellers. Such felons felt that no risk was too great to escape their previous imprisonment, and that seeking China was a last resort but one at which they grasped desperately to achieve freedom. The origins of these ideas would have been knowledge of early trading routes, which included valuable commerce in the east, including China, where supposedly lay unimaginable riches. However, once the Chinese began to come to Australian shores in numbers, attitudes quickly changed, the tables turned, and colonial settlers and traders felt threatened. A fine attitude for a nation founded on convicts!!!!! A fickle aspect of human nature!

The Chinese contribution to Australian society is immense and spans many fields over most all of Australia's colonial and modern history. They helped build key infrastructure, were highly successful merchants and business owners, gardeners, miners, farm workers, cooks and shopkeepers, and many NSW towns saw their Chinese storekeeper as a prominent and valuable citizen. Chinese men even enlisted with the Australian Imperial Force to fight in the Great War.

Patsy Moppett

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^{*}For references, see separate document attached.



Food for thought Editor's note

BMACHO would like to pass on some resolutions recently made by the Committee to facilitate the operation and function of the *HERITAGE* Newsletter.

Article references:

The referencing of articles has been the subject of discussion for some time, in terms of the amount of references credited to a particular article. While a dozen or so references may be easily accommodated in the Newsletter, some articles have resulted in an amazing amount of research being undertaken. While many readers do not especially want to go through these references, there are others who look to the lists for further reading. Therefore, it has been determined that lengthy references will still be provided, but not within the pages of the Newsletter. They will now be provided within a separate document, issued at the same time as the relevant Newsletter.

For example, this issue has two such articles which have lengthy references, and these are provided as an attachment.

Acknowledgement of Country:

Acknowledgement of Country

An "Acknowledgement of Country" is a way that all people can show awareness and respect for Aboriginal culture and heritage and the ongoing relationship the traditional owners have with their land.

Both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people can perform "Acknowledgement of Country". It is a demonstration of respect dedicated to the traditional custodians of the land (or sea) where the event, meeting, school function or conference takes place. It can be formal or informal.

At its meeting of 7th August 2020, BMACHO noted that we acknowledge Country at General Meetings, Seminars, Conferences, but not at our Committee Meetings. Upon receipt of a query from a reader, it was resolved that "*Acknowledge of Country*" be incorporated into the *HERITAGE* Newsletter.

Historic Provision of Water for Karaweera (now Parklands), Blackheath

Introduction

John Pope was one of the early purchasers of land at Blackheath, buying one lot (Por.62) on 30 April 1880¹ on which he built a holiday house *Karaweera*, and an adjacent one (Por.63) at a Government land sale on 18 August 1880². Legally the adjoining Portions have remained separate, but they have been occupied and operated as one property with an area of 24 acres (9.7 ha) and now with the designated address of 132-174 Govetts Leap Road. Initially John Pope had that land "laid out in flower, fruit, and vegetable gardens, cow pastures, pig paddock ... together with fowl and duck yards, ..." ³.

Also, there were four rows of apple trees plus other trees with cherries, plums, "greengages, pears, apricots, quinces and mulberries" and a bed of strawberries all requiring water. In extolling the virtues of the original water supply for *Karaweera* it was reported that "still on the summit of the slope, is a fish pond, fifty feet long by ten feet wide, which on examination you will find supplied by a spring which rises hard by, and which has never been known to fail" ⁴, but there had been no severe drought in those initial years.

[That pond is at 1032m whereas the high points on that property are between 1042m and 1047m, so the spring was actually down slope of the summit as they always are.]

The fishpond was due E of what is now 24 Lakeview Avenue and hence nearby was the spring that was said to be the start of the irrigation system that ran through rubble placed four feet beneath the paths.

".. proceed to the bottom of the garden, where you will find it flowing into a concrete subsider, which arrests all the sand and soil it has collected on its underground passage; the overflow going directly into a concrete swimming bath thirty-two feet long, twenty feet wide, and about five feet deep." ⁵ (Figure 1A).

[The Katoomba Topographic Map⁶ shows a dam in this location and in 2020 so does Google Earth.]

"Through this bath the water continually runs, entering at one end and leaving at the other All this is the outcome of a single spring; the wishing well, swimming bath, irrigated gardens, tanks, dams, everything, in fact, being the result of practical common sense applied to the conservation of water." ⁹.

Survey

John Pope died on 13 January 1912¹⁰ and his properties passed to his son Parke William Pope on 19th June 1912¹¹. Three years later Parke Pope instigated a survey of the eastern property¹² and on the plan Surveyor Chadwick mapped a natural watercourse from the east side of Cleopatra Street through Lots K4 & K3 (nos. 1-5 Third Street), across Third Street and through Lots S1 & S2 (nos. 10-14 Third Street) and Lot R1 (nos. 18-20 Third Street) and no further *(Figure 2)*. Against that feature he wrote the "*Proposed site of ... (illegible*)" [? easement for a pipeline].

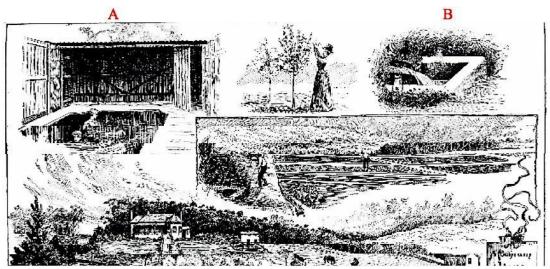


Figure 1: Sketches⁷ of the 1890 swimming pool (A) and the "little concreted basin" near the fishpond (B)⁸

That natural watercourse heads c.025° i.e. almost NNE (*Figure 3*) and was intended to provide the water that was going to fill a storage pond in readiness to be pumped to *Karaweera* as needed.

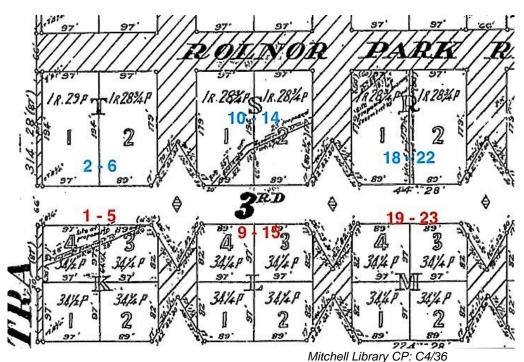


Figure 2: part of Plan of subdivision of Portions 64, 65 & 66 Parish of Blackheath, County of Cook. DP8890 12
[Coloured numbers are those currently assigned to properties.

Only "Site of proposed" is legible in the label associated with the watercourse that cuts across this area.]

A 1932 aerial photograph¹³ (*Figure 4*) shows a pipe line that roughly followed that proposed "easement" (*Figure 2*) and ended at an L shaped building that has been presumed to be a pump house.

Still existing between 23 and 27 Fourth Street, at about the level of the rears of the Lots, is a concrete dam that once blocked the creek but later it was breached as a means of flood mitigation (*Figure 5*).



Figure 3: Map of part of the Blackheath Ideal Estate
[Blue arrows trace the path of the watercourse shown on Figure 2.]

Up slope to the south there is a wide brick wall, with the vestige of a track on its surface, on the northern side of which is the intended lake (*Figure 6*) of roughly triangular shape with a

width of about 30m on the lower side; a local resident said that it has been a breeding site for ducks. Water also ponds on the upslope side of that southern wall so creating an unplanned second lake of sorts.



David West Collection

Figure 4: Aerial Photograph - 1932



Photo: Peter Rickwood 2008

Figure 5: Breached Northern Dam Wall of the lake - Rolnor Park

The pump house was at the NW corner of this man-made lake in a small patch of land which has been amalgamated (DP 584846)¹⁴ with that of 19-21 Fourth Street.

And Parke Pope could plan to have, and then install, those dam walls and the pipe system because he owned all of the lots on which they were to be constructed or pass through¹⁵. As has been explained previously¹⁶ lots in the Blackheath Ideal Estate were advertised for sale in 1919 ¹⁷ but sales were very sluggish and when in 1947 Pope divested himself of these Blackheath properties to Domus Pty. Ltd¹⁸ all of the lots affected by that installation were still owned by Pope. But whether the pump house still existed, and the pipeline was still operative,

is not known. The pump house and dam had been constructed on the southern end of Lot W2 and from accessible rate records that small parcel land became Lot 32 DP564846 between 1974 and 1982.

Discovered during an archaeological investigation¹⁹ of the *Karaweera* site were two large, rectangular, brick and concrete pits and their precise location is known for a surveyor plotted them on a contour map²⁰. The researcher, Siobhan Lavelle, included photographs to support her recommendation that those pits be *"repaired, stabilised and retained on site."* ²¹.



Photo: Peter Rickwood 2008

Figure 6: Storage Lake – Rolnor Park (now filled with reeds)

Parke Pope kept the property until 28 October 1947 when ownership was transferred to Domus Pty. Limited²² then from 1949 Geza Mandel operated the property for that company ²³ until at least 1966²⁴.

Lavelle mentioned that "Timber for the extensions was cut and milled on the property in a shed/sawmill on the western side of the driveway south of the tennis courts." ²⁵.

That was probably in the early 1950s before on 10 April 1954 "a huge blaze ... destroyed the new portion of the 50-year-old Karraveera (sic) guest house" 26

And "destroyed the ballroom and new northern wing" 27.

One of those pits would have been the deep saw pit that Mrs. Judith Sperling said remained long after it had been used during the building of *Parklands* (formerly *Karaweera*) by her uncle Geza Mandel ²⁸ to which he assigned that new name in 1955²⁹.

From Lavelle's report³⁰ it was discerned that Pool 1³¹ – the longer of the two – was just E of the main driveway on contour 1031m and Pool 2³² was in a small valley between contours 1019m & 1020m. These are the two pools that Lavelle reported to be: "on the "Parklands" site comprise two separate in-ground pools constructed of cement rendered brick"³³.

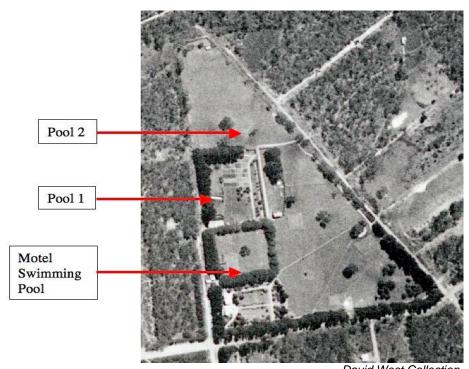
The swimming pool³⁴ of the former motel was at about contour 1041 m and is clearly shown on an aerial photograph taken on 21 January 1979³⁵. But in 1993 there was no evidence of that swimming pool that once was East of the motel³⁶ and was the scene of a drowning in 1986³⁷ so Lavelle conjectured that it had been filled in and concealed³⁸.

These locations have been marked as best as possible on a copy of the 1932 Aerial Photograph (*Figure 7*). It would seem that the longer Pool 1 was the fishpond near to which was the natural spring and Pool 2 was the swimming bath which was supplied by overflow from Pool 1³⁹.

The stated purposes of those brick lined pits do not accord with the account that: "Pope laid out his property in grand style including two swimming pools ladies and gents which also doubled as his water supply ..." ⁴⁰

And "John Pope was the original landowner using the area as his swimming hole and pumping water out of the creek for his domestic purposes." 41.

These two statements were verbal information from the late Lewis Hodgkinson.



David West Collection Figure 7: Karaweera - 1932 Aerial Photograph

But on *Figure 7* it can be seen that the line of the pipe was such that it would have carried pumped water higher up the slope than either of the pools that existed in *Karaweera* so probably to a 'storage header tank' from which it could be fed to the irrigation system that started at the fish pond (Pool 1 in *Figure 7*).

It has been reported: "The dam at 25 Fourth St was used to refill swimming pools at Parklands when this area (i.e. Rolnor Park) was part of it." 42.

That is plausible if the suggested "storage header tank" was converted to being the Parklands swimming pool.

Conclusion

When Parke Pope set up *Karaweera* prior to 1890 irrigation was by spring water fed into gravel drains below paths in the manner that has been well described⁴³. But at sometime prior to 1932 action was taken to ensure that in times of severe drought there was available a means to supply enough water for the irrigation necessary to maintain the extensive gardens. So, a secondary source was established in a man-made storage lake at the southern side of Fourth Street. From there water was pumped to a location high up the slope near *Karaweera* house and probably into a holding tank – although both of those inferences need verification.

Peter C Rickwood & Brian K Fox

*For references, see separate document attached.

Transport Signalling & Communications Museum demise

The following news is forwarded to BMACHO from Carolynne Cooper of the TSC Museum:

It is with sadness that I write this, but it comes from a very heavy heart.

I went to the bank with our treasurer not long ago to close the account of what was the *Transport Signalling & Communications Museum*. It was a very sad day; it was to be the final steps of the end of a very hard battle that we had fought for some years now. TSCM was founded in 1989 by my late husband John Cooper.

John was an amazing man; the things that he has accomplished in his lifetime were so amazing. He arranged to push a trike from Perth to Sydney in 1988 to salute the pioneering

men and women of the railways. It was no mean feat to organise; they needed a support train as well as gathering the supporters to push a hand operated trike 4,200 kilometres, taking five weeks to complete.



The core group that pushed the Sheffield trike from Perth to Sydney

John was also the inaugural Chairman of the Zig Zag Railway which he held for twelve years. He was the only person to ever hire a jumbo jet off Qantas to run joy flights to raise money for ZZR without paying up front. They flew five of these flights and also made souvenirs to sell to make more money. John held membership No 5; he was there from the beginning and helped put the dream into action.

John had always thought the railway societies were concentrating more on engines and carriages, so after the trike trip he decided to put together a museum to celebrate what he thought at the time wasn't being acknowledged. This was the signalling and communications section of the railways.

Over the years John had collected clocks, crockery, and anything else the railway had used and had their mark on. We have one of the largest collections of badge crockery and silverware that the railways used. There are soaps, menus, pocket watches, badges, tickets, phones etc., the list is enormous. Our archives are just as big, with people who knew us giving over anything they thought was of interest. We leased the Cabramatta substation in the beginning, complete with all the diagrams that were no longer in use being and being stored there, and yes, they were all saved by us. Over time the substation was filled with items that were to be displayed. We had even bought a diesel engine 4420 and carriages to make up a typical 1950s train. The front of a Comet set was to be the entrance to the museum.

It wasn't to be, the railways had brought in a lot of new rules when the 3801 accident had happened and being on railway property became very hard to work with. John then decided to go looking for somewhere to move the collection. Kurrajong was selected, but even then the neighbours objected before we even shifted in. Yes, we made headlines and were told to choof off! We stood our grounds and eventually after selling the 44 class and most of our carriages were able to stay.

In the 21 years of trying to set up a museum, fighting the Hawkesbury Council to be able to open, and my husband's passing four years ago, I have given up!



The sketch I did of what the entrance to museum would look like, it later became our first logo

I do not understand the governments of today and as for our heritage it is being lost and our next generation will have no respect or knowledge of how this nation of ours was built. Yes, we are a diverse nation now, but we have also become one that wants to forget our past. The Thompson Square precinct is one example of stupidity; it should have been a bypass. The Powerhouse Museum's demise is another hurtful plan, it is called the Powerhouse Museum because it is in the Powerhouse. So, we pull down our heritage to build another building that will not mean anything and cannot house many of the items just to get the land in the City.

As for their wonderful displays of heritage these days, we now have VDU displays and photos!

I was disgusted when I saw what they call heritage at the old Newcastle Station precinct where they stuck a couple of buffers on some cement and a supposed steam engine that looked like a large kids toy there. This is not heritage!

John and I have done many displays over the years and the main thing about these displays was being able to show how things worked, they were hands on displays most of them which children and adults loved being able to work.

John and I have been President and Secretary of many societies over our lifetime and have also helped other societies out. I am at present the President of the Colo Shire Family History Group which I enjoy immensely, not only the research, writing the newsletter, restoring old photos and collecting our history, but I also enjoy the company of a lot of good friends with a similar interest.



This was some of our display at Central Station for the railways 150th anniversary

I had a book I started years ago and now want to finish it, the book is about the Richmond Railway Line. A friend who passed away just before the New Year, he and I had been gathering paperwork, photos and wonderful memories for this book. Paul McDonald was his name; he was Vice President of CSFHG. Paul and I have been in many societies together over the years and his passing has made me want to finish this book, but not before I finish the 'Richmond Then & Now' book.

Carolynne Cooper

Charles Kingsford Smith Park, Katoomba

Sir Charles Edward Kingsford Smith was born in Brisbane in February 1897 to William and Catherine (nee Kingsford) Smith. The family soon moved to Canada where Charles' education commenced. When they returned to Australia in 1907, he took up further studies in Svdnev.

In 1915 Smith enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force and embarked on 31 May as a sapper. He served on Gallipoli and, as a dispatch rider, in Egypt and France. In October 1916 he transferred to the Australian Flying Corps. After training in England he joined the Royal Flying Corp (RFC), and was appointed flying officer where come July he was in France. Wounded and shot down in August, he was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. After promotion to lieutenant in April 1918 he served as an RFC flying instructor.

After the war he participated in stunt and demonstration flying, whilst setting in motion plans to undertake a number of historic flights. This included:

- A round Australia flight in 1927, with Charles Ulm.
- A trans Pacific flight in 1928 with Ulm, Lyon and Warner in the Southern Cross.
- Sydney to Christchurch in 1928 in the Southern Cross.
- A flight to England in 1929 in the Southern Cross.
- The east-west Atlantic crossing in 1930 in the Southern Cross.
- In 1930 a solo flight from England to Darwin in the Southern Cross Junior.





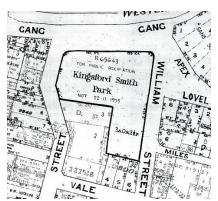


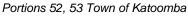
Sir Charles Kingsford Smith

He was knighted in 1933 for his services to aviation. By the time he was 34 he was divorced from his first wife, and he then remarried, to Mary Powell, in Melbourne. In 1935 he decided to attempt one more flight from England to Australia with Tommy

Pethybridge. However, the plane and both airmen were lost, crashing into the sea somewhere off the coast of Burma while flying at night towards Singapore. Kingsford Smith was survived by his wife Mary, and son Charles.

His popularity knew no bounds and the nation was in mourning. Memorials and parks were dedicated across the country, including ones at Ballina, Lane Cove, Geroa and Katoomba.







Wadi Shaifa 1939

The land at Katoomba which now bears Kingsford Smith's name was part of a land grant to James Henry Neal in 1877-78, and comprises Portions 52 and 53 in the town of Katoomba. In 1910 the property was purchased by Mary and Ernest Hudson. They built their home, Wadi Shaifa, in 1916 on part of Portion 52, and lived there with their children, four sons and a daughter. Ernest was well known about the town and involved in many community organisations, His war record was exemplary, serving in the Middle East, and the house was named for a battle in Egypt in 1915. Ernest died in 1918 of pneumonia in Palestine. Following his death, his wife ran *Wadi Shaifa* as flats from the 1920s through to the 1950s; she died in 1968 aged 88. It still operates as flats today.

The garden area of the property was subsequently acquired by Council in an overgrown state (R65643 for Public Recreation 22 November 1935). Prior to this the site was known as Hudson's Gully or Hudson's Park. After acquisition it was landscaped as a park on the corner of Lurline and Gang Gang Streets by Robert Robinson and a labour force comprising men on unemployment relief, in accordance with a plan drawn up by Thomas Kerr, designer of the Sydney Botanical Gardens. The stone for the retaining walls was sourced locally. Robinson, originally from Lancashire, was the head gardener for Katoomba Municipal Council at the time.

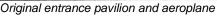
Originally in 1935 the park's name was Jubilee Park to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of King George V. A year later it was changed to Kingsford Smith Memorial Park and Playground, in honour of Kingsford Smith, following his untimely death.



Under construction – note play equipment and ponds

The park was not actually dedicated until 1938, when Lord Wakehurst, Governor of NSW, dedicated the entrance pavilion with a slate plaque. The lintel bore the words Kingsford Smith Memorial Park. The roof of the pavilion carried a hemispherical metal dome showing a relief map of Australia, with a two foot scale model of Southern Cross on top, constructed by Evan Cork of Randwick.







Early plantings 1938 - note play equipment

In 1939 Katoomba Council constructed the band rotunda and public lavatories down on the lower level off Vale Street. The entrance gates are particularly striking - four stone pillars supporting the dome. It is noted that the model aeroplane we see today is different from that originally installed.

Over the next few decades the park fell into disuse and disrepair until local residents began to lobby Council to fund improvements and maintenance. In July 1987 high winds tore the dome from its base on the entry pavilion, and it was repaired and replaced five months later. At the same time a scale profile of the Southern Cross replaced the scale model, which had been vandalised and removed some years before. The original model was located in pieces and missing its two wing motors, in the old Albion Street Council depot in 1985. The current aluminum model of the famous Southern Cross was so finely adjusted that the model and its propellers turn in accordance with wind direction and speed.

Driven by the efforts of community pressure restoration of the gardens and rotunda was commenced in 1993, and since the inception of the Winter Magic Festival in 1994 and the Blue Mountains Music Festival in 1996, it has regained some of its earlier popularity as a music venue and picnic spot, weather permitting. In 1998, a landslip caused by a leaking water main resulted in extensive damage. Around this time, there were also numerous complaints from nearby residents, of anti-social behaviour and drug dealing in the park, which were addressed with tree and foliage thinning, security lighting and police patrols. In 2001 the entry pavilion became unstable and was dismantled and re-erected on new foundations and reinforced pillars with a rebuilt retaining wall.



Bandstand, pond & seating

Wadi Shaifa is largely screened today by units and accommodation construction. The park itself retains the series of terraced walks which wrap back and forth around the escarpment below Lurline and Gang Gang Streets, walks which are shaded by mature trees and ferns, including ornamental cherries, pinoaks, cherry laurel, Japanese maples, liquidambar,





Wadi Shaifa today





Present day entrance pavilion with plaques and replaced aeroplane





Terraces walks and steps





Ferns and open space

conifers and holly, and understorey plantings of tree-fems, bergenia and azaleas. The stone retaining walls around the terracing are clad in moss and spreading ground species, and the place exudes a rainforest atmosphere. The open parkland at the lower level still retains the bandstand - the original seating is long gone although the paved apron area is still evident. The faux rusticated log toilet block remains but is closed, and the original playground equipment and ornamental pond have been removed. Although the park is a beautiful, peaceful and quiet place, a haven for birdlife, its isolation, even being within the centre of Katoomba, still allows for anti-social behaviour, evidenced by a police presence on the day the writer visited the site recently. Rubbish abounds, some blown in from surrounding streets, but also includes bottles and cans. There have been further fallen trees, some minor damage to stonework through drainage issues, and weed infestation. Graffiti covers the bandstand and desecrates other features.





Garden beds and stately eucalypts





Bandstand before and after graffiti







Shady walk and picnic area

References:

Australian Dictionary of Biography, Kingsford Smith, Sir Charles Edward (1897 – 1935), by Frederick Howard 1983

Charles Kingsford Smith and those Magnificent Men: Peter FitzSimmons 2009

www.bmlocalstudies.blogspot.com

Kingsford Smith Memorial Park, Dept of Planning, Industry & Environment 2009

www.askroz.com.au

www.monumentaustralia.org.au

The Technical Side

What is?

A beadle, sometimes spelled "bedel", is an official of a church or synagogue who may usher, keep order, make reports, and assist in religious functions; or a minor official who carries out various civil, educational, or ceremonial duties on the manor. The term has pre-Conquest origins in Old English, and was a title given to an Anglo-Saxon officer who summoned householders to council. The Domesday Book refers to beadles as *bedelli* or undersheriffs of manors.

A linhay (*LIN-ee*) is a type of farm building found particularly in Devon and Somerset, southwest England. It is characterised as a two-storey building with an open front, with a hay-loft above, and livestock quarters below. It often has a lean-to roof, and the front generally consists of regularly-spaced pillars or columns. Cattle linhays were used to house cattle in the winter with hay storage above. Owing to the wide, open front, hay was easily thrown up

into the loft for storage after hay-making, by a man standing on a hay-cart using a pitch-fork. The hay was kept dry by the roof while at the same time acting as insulation for the livestock below, and was easily fed as daily rations to the cattle below by dropping it through openings in the floor directly into hay racks accessible to the livestock. A cart linhay stored carts and other farm machinery in place of livestock, with hay above. A rare form was the circular linhay.





The farm linhay

Infangthief and **outfangthief** were privileges granted to feudal lords (and various corporate bodies such as abbeys and cities) under Anglo-Saxon law by the kings of England. They permitted their bearers to execute summary justice (including capital punishment) on thieves within the borders of their own manors or fiefs.

The terms were frequently attested in royal writs and charters which specified the usual rights accompanying grants of land.

Quit rent, **quit-rent**, or **quitrent** is a tax or land tax imposed on occupants of freehold or leased land in lieu of services to a higher landowning authority, usually a government or its assigns.

Under feudal law, the payment of quit rent freed the tenant of a holding from the obligation to perform such other services as were obligatory under feudal tenure, or freed the occupier of the land from the burden of having others use their own distinct rights that affected the land (e.g. hunting rights which would have hindered farming).

In post-feudal times, quit rents have continued to be imposed by some governments, usually attached to land grants as a form of land tax.

The quit rent system was used frequently by colonial governments in the British Empire. Many land grants in the colonies in the 17th and 18th centuries carried quit rent. Quit rents went on to be used in British colonies, protectorates, etc. in Asia and elsewhere in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Acre comes from *aecer*, meaning a piece of land of unspecified size. The term was originally used to imply a piece of land cleared for ploughing or grazing and later as a strip of open field, sufficiently large enough to be ploughed by a yoke of oxen in a day. Edward I standardised the acre as an area of land 40 rods long by 4 rods wide: a rod was 5½ yards (5.4m). However, variations will be found, particularly in Scotland, Ireland and northern England, where the area of an acre was substantially larger than this. The Old English acreman was a farmer, a medieval term for one paying a firma or fixed rent.

References:

Wikipedia

The Companion to Local History, Stephen Friar 2001

Community events & updates

PLEASE NOTE THE CLOSING DATE FOR ARTICLES AND NOTIFICATIONS TO THE EDITOR FOR THE NOVEMBER-DECEMBER ISSUE OF HERITAGE IS 26th OCTOBER 2020

Community activity within COVID19 limitations

BMACHO would refer readers back to the previous issue of *HERITAGE* and the contacts provided relating to members' activities and partial relaxation of some COVID restrictions. Each organisation is interpreting the COVID restrictions differently according to what they can manage with social distancing. Please stay in touch with your local organisations and support them in whatever way you can to enable the ongoing provision of cultural and heritage services.

Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum AGM

Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum would like to invite everyone to save the date for their AGM, to be held on *Saturday 21st November 2020* commencing at 11am at the Museum. Come along on the day to join in. If things stay the same at Valley Heights re COVID, they have decided they can have the AGM at the Museum where they have a large area to utilise, where they can ensure all COVID rules are applied.



If you should indicate attendance and if the situation should change, they will certainly let you know. Hope to see you there for a brief meeting followed by their traditional sausage sizzle. Formal invitations will be issued to societies as the date gets closer. Please indicate by return email if you or one of your representatives can attend.

Bruce Coxon

History Week 2020

History Week is the annual, state-wide celebration of History organised by the History Council of NSW and is set for 5th to 13th September 2020. Although registration closed on 18th August, you now have time to plan to attend some of the many events that will be scheduled. History Week is planned to be both an online and in-person series of events for 2020, having regard for COVID-19 Health considerations.



The theme for 2020 is *History: What is it good for?* which invites participants to share with their communities why history matters to them.

The History Council advises that

.... year 2020 has been momentous with bushfires, pandemics and protests. All these events have their origins in the past and history has rarely been so important in the present day. This year's History Week theme invites participants to share why history matters to them. What can the past tell us about current events? What value is history in local communities affected by bushfires? What were your communities' experiences of pandemics past and present? We invite you to showcase history in all its forms – histories of place, community and environment as well as family histories, Indigenous histories and others. Tell us why history matters to you and your community, and what history is good for!

What do you love about history? Can history be life-changing? They invite you to show them what histories are special to you.

- Are these histories of place and environment such as local, public, urban, architectural or environmental history?
- Or perhaps your focus is people and you are drawn to family histories, Indigenous histories and biographical history?
- Is speculative, fictional, cultural or social history what inspires you?
- Maybe you love military, economic, business or labour histories?

This is your opportunity to share your latest passion, a longterm project or research that has moved you. Overall, there will be close to 100 events being staged throughout NSW in History Week 2020, many of which will be online for the first time ever.

Find out more on the History Council of NSW:

Website: https://historycouncilnsw.org.au/history-week-2020/

Phone: 0418 811 522

Email: programs@historycouncilnsw.org.au

Blue Mountains History Conference Update

BMACHO has rescheduled the BM History Conference, which was to be held in May this year, but was cancelled due to COVID19.

Save The Date – Saturday 8th May 2021!

The theme *Industrial Heritage* and speakers are expected to be much the same as originally scheduled and as reported in *Heritage* Newsletter No. 66 January-February 2020, and *Heritage* Newsletter No. 67 March-April 2020.

Further information will be available closer to the date, having regard for the COVID19 situation and confirmation of details.

Blue Mountains Historical Society AGM 2020

The Blue Mountains Historical Society was recently able to hold their Annual General Meeting on 11th July 2020, with suitable social distancing.

The new committee is advised as follows:

- President: Fiona Burn
- Senior Vice-President: Robyne Ridge
- Vice-President: Joanne Burgess
- Secretary: Ross Ingram (temporary)
- Treasurer: Ross Ingram
- Committee members: John Hill, Erik Halbert, Stephen Davis and Michael Mahoney.

Life Memberships were awarded to Wayne Hanley and Ruth Eslake.

Congratulations are offered to all the above.

Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail Update





BMACHO continues to promote the Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail and members' upcoming events. At present participation in the Trail is partially on hold due to the corona virus situation, and activities are of course limited. The

Trail is normally an ideal activity for the kids and grandkids, be it in the school holidays or any weekend! The 2019 trail brochures can still be collected at participating venues and Visitor Information Centres which have remained open.

The Trail brochure is currently being reviewed and is due for reissue in 2021.

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



BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

Registered office: 1/19 Stypandra 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 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; The Eleanor Dark Foundation Ltd; Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum; Woodford Academy Management Committee; Zig Zag Railway Co-op Ltd.

The following are individual members: Wendy Blaxland, Fiona Burn, Philip Hammon, Dr Wayne Hanley, Ian Milliss, Patsy Moppett, Keith Painter, Dr Peter Rickwood, and Dr Robert Strange.

Committee: The management committee for 2020-2021 (from March 2020) is: Rod Stowe (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 Coordinator), Jan Koperberg (Correspondence Secretary), Summar Hipworth, Kate O'Neill, Roy Bennett.

Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail sub-committee: Fiona Burn, Jan Koperberg, Suzanne Smith, Kate O'Neill, Patsy Moppett.

Blue Mountains History Conference sub-committee: Patsy Moppett, Jan Koperberg, Summar Hipworth, Phil Hammon, Rod Stowe.

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