

Heritage

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Heritage Organisations Inc*

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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.

Alexander Kinghorne: a well-known and respected colonist

Alexander Kinghorne was born in 1770 at Bowden, south of Edinburgh, in Scotland. Although he was employed as a teacher, he also worked as a surveyor, agriculturalist and land valuator. His wife Elizabeth Brockie was born in 1772 and had married Alexander in 1793. Their children were William born 1796, Helen born 1797, Andrew born 1802, Alexander born 1804, Elizabeth born 1808, John born 1809 and Isabella born 1811. Elizabeth his wife, then died in 1819.

Alexander decided to emigrate to Australia at age 56 and the Kinghorne family first reached Hobart Town on 10 September 1824 on the ship *Portland*, Captain William Snell, belonging to the Australian Company. With him were his three daughters, Helen (Ellen), Elizabeth and Isabella, and his sons John and Alexander Jnr.

The ship had departed Leith (the port of Edinburgh) on 1st April 1824 and came via Rio de Janeiro and Cape Town, with extensive valuable merchandise and 87 passengers. David Murray, a fellow passenger on the *Portland*, noted in his diary an approach by an American ship off the Madeiras.



Leith Harbour 1826



Leith Harbour 1829

Both Murray and Kinghorne came as free settlers, and had brought letters of introduction from Earl Bathurst, which later helped gain them positions and land grants. Murray remained in Tasmania. Andrew Kinghorne remained in Scotland to manage the family affairs there. William Kinghorne had come out to Australia in 1821. James Kinghorne & Alexander Kinghorne Jnr were trained millwrights, with James having come to Australia in 1822. It was

probably upon James' recommendation to his family for opportunities in Australia that the family emigrated.

During their short stay in Hobart of only a few months, Alexander Snr undertook a survey for the town of Brighton.

In October 1824 the *Sydney Gazette* and advertiser announced arrivals on the *Portland* – *we beg leave to congratulate [them] on their safe arrival to our shores – from Leith ... Mr Alexander Kinghorne sen., Mr Alexander Kinghorne jun. [et al].*

In November 1924, one hundred years later, a Mrs Ibbott recalled the arrival in Hobart Town of her McDowall family in 1824 and listed the other passengers on the ship *Portland*. She outlined the principal passengers, and then others *of lesser note in those days.....*, which happened to include the Kinghorne family!

Alexander's eldest son William (the "Captain") of the Royal Navy was the first to emigrate, coming to the colonies from Scotland, leaving Leith on the *Castle Forbes* just after his twenty-fifth birthday in August 1821. He had command of the brig *Cypress* that was trading between Sydney and Hobart Town, and later, in January 1834 Captain William Kinghorne was noted as departing for Hobart Town on the Government brig *Isabella*.

Already also in Australia was Alexander's son James, a surveyor with Governor Brisbane. James was working as Assistant to Peter Murdoch at the Emu Plains convict farm from June 1822 until January 1824. James had come out to Australia in December 1821 with Governor Brisbane, and was recommended by Brisbane as a valuable import, but was only assigned as Assistant at first.



Captain William Kinghorne



Richard Fitzgerald, first Superintendent

The Agricultural Establishment at Emu Plains was commenced in 1819 under Governor Macquarie. The first Superintendent was Richard Fitzgerald, followed by Peter Murdoch in 1822 (assisted by the young James Kinghorne), serving under Governor Brisbane. Murdoch held the position until 1824. In December 1824 it was announced that Alexander Kinghorne [Snr] was appointed Superintendent of Agriculture, replacing Peter Murdoch, whose resignation had been accepted by the Governor.

A new phase commenced in the farm management under Kinghorne, with 1825 being the high point of the farm's operation. The farm played an essential role in food production for the colony during the subsequent drought years, and in December 1825 it was reported in the *Sydney Gazette and Advertiser* that the establishment under the superintendence of Mr Kinghorne was in *a most flourishing condition, regularity, and discipline, which reflected the highest credit upon Mr Kinghorne's zeal and ability.*

Kinghorne handled some of the redistribution of convicts from ships newly arrived in Sydney, handled stock movement to and from Sydney/Bathurst, and had to address runaways.

Both Alexander Kinghorne and subsequently his son James kept up the cultivation and curing of tobacco and flax at the farm despite lack of trained people to undertake the process.

Alexander was not one to let the morals of his charges fall away and was responsible for the establishment and construction of a theatre on the site in 1825. Both Kinghorne and many

local dignitaries were known to attend the popular performances. However, Governor Darling considered it an undesirable element and it was closed in 1830.



Map of Emu Plains by Alexander Kinghorne 1826 showing location of the farm
Alexander Jnr's mill is at top right

Kinghorne was known as a kindly, proud man respected by his peers and the convicts. He was often censured for not following protocol. He frequently encouraged and supported the convicts' endeavours to seek reform and obtain their tickets of leave. Alexander Snr resigned as Superintendent in February 1826 and was appointed colonial civil engineer by the Governor via the Colonial Secretary.



Emu Plains from Lucasville

**MISCELLANEOUS
ADVERTISEMENTS.**

**CONVICTS' THEATRE,
EMU PLAINS.**
BY PERMISSION.

ON the Evening of Saturday, the 30th
November, this private Theatre will
be opened with the celebrated national
Tragedy of

DOUGLAS.

CHARACTERS.	PERFORMERS.
Young Norval,	William Tongood.
Lord Randolph,	William Tongood.
Glenalvon,	William W.
Officer,	Joseph Hill.
Old Norval,	William W.
Servant,	Samuel Fenton.

WOMEN.

Lady Randolph,	C. Holden.
Anna,	J. Matthews.

Between the Pieces, sundry Amusements.
To conclude with the Farce of the

PADLOCK.

Don Diego,	John Northall.
Leander,	James Dennison.
First Scholar,	Samuel Fenton.
Second Scholar,	Henry Aldin.
Mungo,	William Tongood.

WOMEN.

Leonora,	J. Matthews.
Urania,	E. O'Connor.

Doors open at 7, to commence at half-past 7.

Playbill for the Convict Theatre in
the Sydney Monitor 1830

In the same month it was announced that James Kinghorne was appointed Superintendent of Agriculture at the Emu Plains farm, replacing Alexander. James was then Superintendent

from January 1826 to September 1829 and was a strict disciplinarian in contrast with his father. However, Alexander was known to help out at the farm occasionally in the following years after his son took over, in times of James' absence. James became heavily embroiled in the conflicts that occurred with women & men being worked together at the farm and trying somewhat unsuccessfully to maintain some sort of separation.

Alexander moved on to be appointed Government Civil Engineer. However, Alexander's supervisors soon found that he was not suited to the job, and he only lasted 4 months, and by 1827 he had moved his family to Liverpool where he rented Drummond's 100 acre farm. In May 1826 it was announced in the *Sydney Gazette* that Alexander was resigning his arduous post as civil engineer due to ill health.

The Scottish John Drummond was the Quartermaster on the *Sirius* in the first fleet and had settled at Norfolk Island as Harbour Master. Once he left there, he and his partner Ann Reid, settled at Liverpool as he had bought a 100 acre farm, originally owned by Thomas Chipp, known as Chipp's Farm on the Georges River, along with another 610 acres by grant and purchases. Ann died in 1823 and John in 1827.

Kinghorne was a police magistrate at Liverpool for several years. In June 1826 Lieutenant-General Ralph Darling via Colonial Secretary Alexander McLeay had announced in the *Gleaner* newspaper the swearing in of a large number of citizens as Justices of the Peace, including Alexander Kinghorne, listing their duties in detail.

It was noted in September 1827 a group of individuals including Alexander Kinghorne J.P., listed an advertisement in the Australian newspaper in regard to the theft of cattle in the Liverpool area. They were offering fifty pounds sterling reward for information which might lead to the apprehension and conviction of the felons.

Subsequently, and following his time at Liverpool, Alexander Kinghorne moved south. In 1826 he took up a grant of 2,000 acres at Goulburn that he named *Cardross* and put his son John in charge of the sheep, cattle and convict labour. His other son, Alexander Jnr, built a flour mill at *Cardross* and he would have similar enterprises at Liverpool and Bathurst (Fish River) in the coming years.

The Kinghorne family acquired land at Boorowa, Bathurst, an island off Tasmania and a property called Mount Jervis on the north-eastern side of Jervis Bay. Mt Jervis was where Alexander intended to settle permanently. According to family legend, "*The view was magnificent, the natives friendly, and the providers of fish aplenty, and for a time [son] William conducted a whaling station there; this was not very difficult as there were plenty of whales in the bay*". The whaling facility was apparently well known, for a land sale at Jervis Town advertised in November 1841 mentioned its proximity to "*Captain Kinghorne's whaling station*".

William had set up a land-based operation on the northern side of the bay near Montague Point on the Mt Jervis property. There is an area of land between Culburra and Currarong named after the family, Kinghorn Point, which can be accessed from the road out to Currarong. There are streets named after the family as well, Kinghorn Street in Nowra, Liverpool and Goulburn.

It is unknown how long the whaling operation existed in the bay, but the ship *Caroline* was wrecked at Point Perpendicular and the crew made their way through the bush and came upon the station of James Kinghorn, Esq., "*who's superintendent rendered them every assistance*". So, it appears that the whaling station was possibly still operating in 1859. Captain Kinghorn died in his 80's at his home at Goulburn in 1878.

Life at Mt Jervis was not without its dangers. On the occasion of Alexander's travelling to and from Sydney, it was noted in the press that in June 1840 Mr Kinghorne, a magistrate, was robbed about two miles from Marulan, on the Goulburn road, by an armed man, who threatened to blow out his brains unless he handed over all his money.

Around 1828 Alexander had occasion to encounter his future son in law in the street:

One day James [Chisholm], while standing in front of his George Street residence, got into a conversation with a gentleman of about the same age as himself, who happened to be passing by. That person was Alexander Kinghorne, who had not long arrived in the colony. Kinghorne in later writings is said to have described his initial impression of James as an

elderly gentleman. On the strength of their common nationality, each was at once favourably impressed by the other; and after a little conversation on the street, Mr. Kinghorne was invited by the other to partake of his hospitality. When he returned home however, Kinghorne was much concerned at having been the guest of quite an unknown person, and feared he might have compromised his character by accepting hospitality from a convict. Having made inquiries, Kinghorne was much relieved to find his newly acquired friend had never undergone a conviction, and was in every way a respectable individual. This acquaintance so accidentally begun, eventually led to Kinghorne's son James marrying Kinghorne's daughter, Elizabeth.

In July 1839 Alexander Kinghorne, on behalf of himself and son James, wrote from NSW to son Andrew in Scotland, outlining his settlement of their *Cardross* property at Goulburn, 2000 acres, and also his circumstances in NSW. He outlined how he and James had been investing in land and stock to provide for family after his death. He listed his extensive assets, which included property at Bathurst, being *Rainville* on the Fish River, 2000 acres, and the adjoining *St Boswell's*, 1221 acres. He also owned several other properties at Goulburn and Jervis Bay, his main place of residence being Mt Jervis.

The property of *St. Boswells* was near Tarana, south east of Bathurst on the Fish River in the County of Westmoreland. The property itself was formerly owned by Thomas Raine in conjunction with an adjacent property *Raineville*, and a flour mill's operation on the land was conducted by Alexander Kinghorne Jnr. Raine had been granted *Raineville* in the Sidmouth Valley, east of O'Connell and east of *St Boswells* in 1823. He had retired from a position as captain of the transport ship *Surry* that same year after completing three return trips between England and Australia, settling at *Rainville* in 1829.

In May 1838 the "newly constructed" watermill on *St. Boswells*, was advertised for sale as part of the *St. Boswell's* estate, along with the adjacent *Raineville* property. Both estates abutted the southern bank of the Fish River and it was there that the watermill was established.

Kinghorne's letters to England in 1839 suggest that by then he had purchased both *Raineville* and *St Boswell's*. The watermill on the property had been built by 1836 when the property was owned by Raine but was operated by Alexander Kinghorne Jnr. Alexander Jnr operated the mill through to at least 1840 producing flour, when it was offered for sale. The severe drought of the 1840s affected the Kinghorne family, who were able to diversify their interests on their other properties, constructing flour mills on their south coast properties. As trained millwrights James and Alexander Jnr continued connections with the industry. James Kinghorne had been making mill stones from 1826, following the find of a bed of limestone on the Cox's River.

Earlier Alexander Jnr had constructed a mill for William Bowman at Castlereagh in 1825, which became Jackson's mill, just downstream of Emu Ford. The site was joined by another mill built by John McHenry in 1831. Jackson's mill operated until the 1860's. James Kinghorne used the mill in relation to the government farm.

Alexander Kinghorne Jnr was in residence at the Fish River properties when in September 1837, his wife Jane (nee Lambert of Bathurst) was recorded as passing away at *Rainville* Bathurst following the death of her stillborn child.

In November 1836 one Thomas Bryan, free, and John Watson, assigned to A Kinghorne, were indicted for burglary of clothing at an adjoining property on the Fish River.

In December 1841 one Alexander Kinghorne was committed for trial for shooting at his assigned servant James Backhouse. Backhouse had been insolent and refused to obey orders and had attempted to run away. Kinghorne called at him to stop and when this did not happen, he discharged his shotgun in the direction of Backhouse. Some shot hit a fence and some hit Backhouse. In April 1842 when the case was heard the jury returned a verdict of not guilty. This was probably Alexander Jnr.

However, in April 1842 William H Kerr, Chief Commissioner of Insolvent Estates, referred to the insolvent estate of Alexander Kinghorne [Snr], of *Rainville*, near Bathurst, settler. The creditors were to meet at the Supreme Court in Sydney in May to establish proof of debts and elect trustees.

In October 1842 under Insolvency Business, the Supreme Court announced the Plan of Distribution of the estate of Alexander Kinghorne of *Rainville*. No Caveats had been lodged and the application was granted.

Subsequently, Alexander made a trip back to Scotland, where he became ill and died without returning to Australia. In August 1846 the Melbourne Argus reported that on the 15th February at Galashiels, Scotland, Mr Alexander Kinghorne, Esq. had passed away:

He was a long well-known and respected colonist, and active magistrate in New South Wales, and his death was deeply regretted by his numerous family and friends.

In March 1856, the firm Dunsmure and Stafford for James Kinghorne, placed in the Govt Gazette an announcement in regard to the will of Alexander Kinghorne, late of Galashiels, in Scotland, gentleman, deceased. Probate was to be awarded to one of the Trustees, James Kinghorne.

James Kinghorne took over the family affairs and had properties in the Goulburn area as well as *Cardross – Strathallen* and *Maxton* (*Maxton* being promised in 1833 and granted in 1840). He had taken on management of *Cardross* from 1825 where he had established a post windmill about 1834. He was a magistrate at Goulburn in 1836 and was appointed to the District Council as a councillor in 1847. A post office had been established at *Strathallen* in 1835.

By the 1840's, although the Kinghorne family had ceased association with the Fish River properties, the mill site remained the focus of numerous incidents and associations over the following years. The mill was located on the river and adjacent to an old "*road in common use*" through from the Blue Mountains to Kelso, formerly Dirty Swamp Road (proclaimed in 1865) and now the Tarana Road, so the site was frequently passed by travellers. Adjacent to the River crossing is a set of rapids known as Kinghorne Falls.

On a journey to Bathurst one William Townsend from Kurrajong went missing ...*near Kinghorne's mill...*, returning from a court case in Bathurst in September 1848. His horse was found grazing nearby. He had been travelling with his son when they became separated. The body was found a month later and the death remains the subject of speculation today. William's wife Rebecca had placed a notice in the local paper at the time seeking information about his disappearance, but to no avail. A coroner's verdict suggested he had suffered a "*fit of temporary insanity*". Descendant Glenn Townsend is on the case! Following the droughts, came the floods. In August 1857 a coroner's inquest was held before Dr Busby into the death of Patrick Langhram who had been found drowned. The deceased was a farmer who was driving some horses the previous Sunday from the north side of the Fish River near Kinghorne's mill. The horse returned home about an hour later with saddle but no bridle, and a search was mounted. The crossing place which was usually low water was found to be some 14 feet deep from recent flooding. The spot was dragged, and the body found. The verdict was accidental drowning, and the man left a wife and several children. At the time the flood found that the Fish River was some 3-4 feet higher than previous floods, and that Kinghorne's mill had been completely washed away in the biggest flood since 1844.

In August 1869 the pound keeper reported two horses from Kinghorne Falls, opposite the mill site, which were impounded by a Mr A Lowe. They were to be sold if not claimed within two weeks.

The River was the site of several gold discoveries in the 1850s and 1860s, and later in the 1890s, but no major rush eventuated. In August 1860 a report was made to the Bathurst Free Press and Mining Journal that payable gold could be found on the Fish River near to Kinghorne's Estate, *Rainville*, referring to the site as the Fish River diggings. A similar report had been lodged back in October 1852, although the original discovery of any gold near Kinghorne Falls on the Fish River was by Assistant Surveyor McBrien in 1823. In March 1897 gold wash was reported on the Fish River halfway between O'Connell and Kinghorne Falls on Captain Corry's property, then leased by Mr E Locke.

Alexander Kinghorne and his family leave a legacy which stretches across the country wherever they had occasion to influence local affairs. Kinghorne Falls, the Kinghorne's mill

site and Kinghorne Falls Road are examples in the central west. Liverpool retains a Kinghorne Street, as do Goulburn and Nowra.

On the south coast, Nowra's main street is named Kinghorne Street. For generations, Shoalhaven residents spelt Kinghorne Street without the "e", but Shoalhaven City Council eventually went back to the source and adopted the original spelling. However, Kinghorn Point between Culburra and Currarong retains the old spelling - long ago gazetted by either the Geographical Names Board or its predecessor. The Kinghorne Estate on the northern shores of Jervis Bay was one of the last parcels of land to be sold by its trustees at the time.

Patsy Moppett

References: See separate document attached.

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Food for thought Editor's note

From time to time we lose some very special people. We think they will always be there, all of a sudden they are gone. We think back about their achievements with fond memories, sad at the loss and the knowledge that the community has lost some very valuable contributors to our history, and that we have lost some very special friends. Two such people in 2021 are Rae Clapshaw and Mary Reynolds OAM.

Vale Rae Clapshaw

BMACHO regrets to announce the sudden passing of Committee member Rae Clapshaw as a result of a short illness, on 21st January 2021, aged 74. Committee members are shocked and saddened. Her death notice states she was a passionate school teacher, historian and volunteer in the community, a loving mother and treasured grandmother.

Rae was a retired former high school teacher with the Department of Education and Training. She specialised in History (Years 7-12) and Legal Studies (Years 11-12) in a career spanning nearly 40 years, having trained at Wagga Wagga. Rae's research interests included local history, particularly the Nepean/Hawkesbury region, World War I and international studies. As a teacher she was always expanding on ways to educate, and contributed to a senior textbook, writing chapters on Australian Archaeology and ethics in archaeology.

Rae Clapshaw was one of the Woodford Academy's longstanding volunteers and historians for some eight years. The Academy provided comment on Facebook:

The loss of Rae will be deeply felt by the Academy as well as her family and many friends. We will miss her warmth, generosity and kindness.

Rae always had time to answer any hard questions on Woodford Academy & many other venues she had volunteered her time for. We will sadly miss your smiling face, passion & expertise. Thank you for leaving your mark on Woodford Academy.

Resulting from her interests in WWI history, in 2019 the Academy and Rae launched *Make Your Mark in History*, an E-book on display in the museum that told the stories of the lives of the 58 former students of the Academy who enlisted in World war I. Rae also was behind the display of the Honour Board at the Academy which lists those former students who went to war.

The Penrith High School Honour Board hanging in the hall recognises former students who served in the Defence Forces. Staff members Rae Clapshaw, Clark Stone and Brooklyn Dicker were responsible for bringing this important project to life, during Rae's many years at the school.



Rae Clapshaw – photos from Woodford Academy

Rae was a recipient in the Fellowship, Mentorship and Volunteer Placement Program in 2016 at *State Records of NSW*. This placement allowed Rae the opportunity to gain an understanding of the protocols around handling, cleaning and storage of paper and photographic material, along with cataloguing and digitising fragile documents, in order for her to assist in maintaining the archives held at the Academy, cementing her desire to care for the Academy collections.

Rae was an individual member of BMACHO who always sought to contribute to discussions and projects in any way she could, and her invaluable input was always welcome. She attended our meetings and lunches with a bright and easy-going cheerfulness, and she will be sorely missed.

Our condolences are extended to her family, friends, colleagues, students and former students at this sad time.

Vale Mary Reynolds OAM

BMACHO has more sad news to convey in the passing of Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine historian and former Mt Wilson resident, Mary Reynolds, on 25th January 2021, aged 92, following an ongoing illness. Her death notice suggests she was devoted to her family, and deeply committed to social justice, local history, our heritage and the environment.

In 2013 the Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Historical Society had reason to revisit Mary's achievements when she "*retired*" from formal Society duties, with the intention of concentrating on her history of Mt Wilson and sorting and cataloguing of archival material. She was the foundation co-ordinator of the Mt Wilson/ Mt Irvine Historical Society in 1996 and credited with the establishment of the Turkish Bath Museum in 1997.

Mary had long enjoyed the honorary life membership of the Society bestowed on both herself and her husband Ellis in 2006.

In 2011 Mary received an Order of Australia Medal "*for services to the community*" in the Australia Day awards. She was congratulated for the years she had dedicated to the service of the community.

She has been described as the indefatigable Research Officer for Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society. Shirley Evans, Springwood Historians thought of Mary as being indestructible. At the Society's 2014 AGM President Des Barrett expressed ...*very deep appreciation to Mary for her outstanding contributions to the work of the Society, to Blue Mountains history, and for the care and diligence she had brought to the Museum and its exhibitions, publications, public enquiries, tours and archives.* Des said that Mary's contribution to the Society and to the study of local history generally, has been truly a remarkable one.



With Ian Jack 2014



With Marie Bashir & Des Barrett 2012



Conference speaker 2018

At the Society's AGM in 2014 the late Professor Ian Jack spoke about the significant role Mary had played in the Society, reflecting on the role of local history, and historians, and then showed how valuable the work done by Mary had been for the local community and for the wider history of our country and nation. Extracts of his address include the following:

- Mary was the founding Public Officer of the Society.
- She was the first Project Director for the all-important restoration of the Turkish Bath.
- From 1997 until 2005, she served as Secretary.
- Mary became Research Officer in 2005 until 2014.

As well as holding key positions in the Society for its entire existence, Mary has been an indefatigable communicator. Her recurrent reports to the Society of all that had been going on in relevant research each year make fascinating reading, because her role gave her a central understanding of the significance of everything that was happening.

- She was also exceedingly generous with her time for other researchers.
- After her retirement from all formal offices, she published a research article on the local Progress Association and on the Sights Reserve Trust, and on many other subjects.
- Another outstanding contribution made by Mary over the years is the long series of obituaries. Mary is a simply splendid memorialist and some of her longer notices fill a major gap in the knowledge of almost all of us.

Mary is indispensable. I speak for everyone in the area when I thank Mary unreservedly for a lifetime of dedication to understanding this very special place, to ensuring that the writings, photographs and drawings which enshrine its unique history are preserved and maintained in a way that future generations can use to the full. Mary is an exemplary local historian whom I admire immensely, and I look forward eagerly to her continuing work.

Ian Jack, 9 November 2013

Although she had relinquished her role on the Management Committee and would not be involved to the extent that she had been over the previous seventeen years, she was still called upon from time to time to write and have published articles of interest to the Society, and even though she then left Mt Wilson (to live at Wentworth Falls and subsequently at Katoomba), she was still able to come to meetings for some time, thanks to loyal supporters. Mary was always open to hosting BMACHO Meetings at Mt Wilson and to share with our Committee the history of the location. Mary spoke at the Blue Mountains Conference in 2018 about her beloved Mt Wilson.

She was an avid driver of the project to obtain funding to allow refurbishment of the school building to house the Society's archives, and BMACHO members were honoured to be able to assist in the logistics of the sorting and relocation of the archives. Although the Society's activities are vastly curtailed today due to lack of membership, Mary continued to live and breathe that community spirit to the last. Her gentle smiling face will be greatly missed by all. Our condolences are extended to her family and friends and the Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine community at this sad time.

Blue Mountains Local Studies

Since 1982 the Blue Mountains Local Studies Unit has occupied rooms in the *Braemar Centre* as part of the Springwood Library. Now that things are about to change it is fitting that we look back at the facility's many years of operation and see what its future holds.

Blue Mountains staff advise that the next stage of the Springwood Library redevelopment is about to commence, including refurbishment and upgrades, external alterations and internal renovations of the main Library building. In March 2021, Library staff will commence packing up the 1976 Library building at the rear of *Braemar* in preparation for the next phase. The new design for Springwood Library will be*modern, redesigned, climate controlled, light and bright, with more windows and an excellent view, plus quiet study areas and a fully accessible lift*. The design is based on community consultation held in 2019 with Library staff, Library members, Hub users, and local residents. The Library will close for two weeks to facilitate the packing and from 15th March the Library will be located in Meeting Room 2 of the Hub, very close to the existing Library.

The assessment of impact of the proposed works by consultants City Plan Heritage on *Braemar*, the *Macquarie Road Heritage Conservation Area* and heritage items in the proximity, have been considered relevant only to potential visual impacts of the proposed works. City Plan Heritage advise that *the proposed works seek to upgrade the accessibility and improve the overall amenity of the subject site so that it can continue its significant community services function effectively into the future.*



Braemar c. 1892



Braemar 1930

The building we know as the *Braemar Centre* was originally constructed in 1891-92 as *Braemar*, the home of James Hunter Lawson, who arrived in Australia in 1855. Lawson had married in the same year to Emma Glen of Pyrmont and was a cabinet maker. He ran a hotel in Pyrmont for a time, then by 1860 had reverted to a successful cabinet making business, locating in various places across Sydney, in partnership with a George Cadell. Lawson's four sons, James, William, Alfred & Ernest, joined the business, although James Jnr eventually became a valuer.

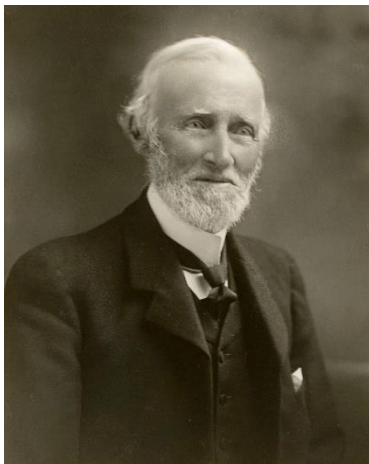


Glen Lawson 1910

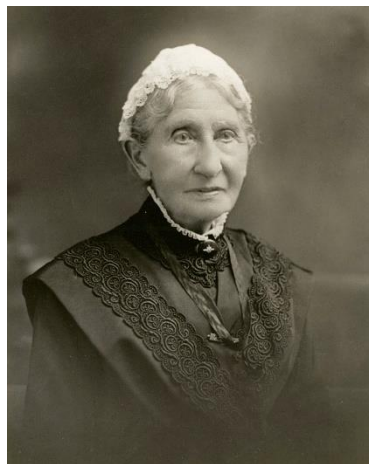


Civic Centre built in 1966

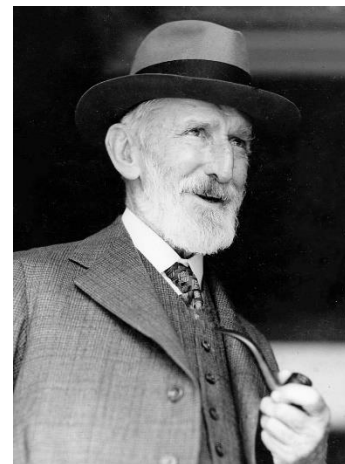
Like many businessmen and politicians of the time, Lawson looked to the Blue Mountains for the opportunity to build a summer retreat, and he chose Springwood. By the late 1880's the railway was well established through the Blue Mountains, and Lawson purchased 60 acres of land at Springwood from Frank Raymond which included the Springwood Hotel, which had been built in 1877 by Raymond. Although he continued his Sydney business, Lawson completely renovated the Hotel, which reopened as the Oriental in January 1891. He then commenced building a residence on the adjoining land, which became *Braemar*. Lawsons did not occupy *Braemar* for very long, and built another residence adjoining, *Glen Lawson*, which became their home until their deaths in 1926. *Glen Lawson* was named as a combination of James and Emma's surnames, and has also been known as *Danebury*. Lawson was renowned for erecting a number of dwellings in the Lower Mountains.



James Hunter Lawson



Emma Lawson nee Glen



Tom Garrett

Briefly in 1897 *Braemar* was used as a convalescent hospital, and for some years the house was used by members of the Lawson family and then tenanted by Thomas Garrett and his family. Garrett was heavily involved in the community but had left Springwood by 1812. In 1908 the property was listed as a boarding house, and by 1918 it was occupied by Dr Andrew O'Flanagan during the influenza pandemic, until his death in 1923. From then until 1968 the building was a boarding house under several different proprietors, the Gillmans, the Irelands and the Platts. The place was sold in 1971 to local real estate agent Charles Degotardi, who did live there, until 1974 when it was sold to Blue Mountains City Council. The house was bought with Federal Government funds provided through the Australian Assistance Program - *designed specifically to encourage and assist the preservation of the nation's heritage*. However, almost immediately it became the new Blue Mountains City Library, pending construction of a purpose-built library next door. Structures at the rear of *Braemar*, the kitchen and servants' quarters were demolished at this time.

Once the new library was completed in 1976, the collection was moved in, and *Braemar* was occupied by the Council's electricity department, which became Prospect County Council, who moved to alternate premises in 1984.

During the 1970's there had been interest shown in occupying *Braemar* by the Springwood Historical Society, who wrote to Council, feeling that a role as a local history centre would be appropriate to store its collection of books, historic documents, etc and be in line with the original purpose intended for the building by the Federal funding in 1974. Nothing came of this, and the proposal recurred in 1981, raised by the City Librarian himself. A Local Studies Librarian was appointed early in 1982 and two rooms were allocated and occupied by the new Local Studies Collection in 1984.

The remainder of the building was then renovated and used as an art gallery, opening in 1988, and the *Friends of Braemar* committee was formed to guide the management of the building as a heritage and cultural resource. The building was listed on the National Trust Register in 1985. The committee was disbanded in 2016, and the art gallery came under the control of the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre.

The former Springwood Civic Centre next door (constructed 1966) was demolished in 2013-14 and the Blue Mountains Theatre and Community Hub building, adjoining the Library, opened in 2015.

The Springwood Historical Society was formed in 1955 with the following objectives in mind:

- *To promote an interest in all branches of Australian history by means of lectures, excursions, exhibitions and such other means as may be desirable.*
- *To encourage research with the object of disseminating, correcting and authenticating knowledge of Australia generally and the area of the Blue Mountains particularly. To publish papers, pamphlets or booklets containing the results of such research.*
- *To co-operate with kindred societies in endeavouring to secure the retention, preservation and maintenance of buildings, bridges, waterways, earthworks, flora, fauna, and relics of historic significance.*
- *To undertake appropriate activities to commemorate or preserve sites of historic interest in the lower Blue Mountains area.*
- *To acquire, compile and preserve records, according to the societies approved collection management policy, or present day happenings which may prove of use in future years.*

The Society had accumulated a wealth of material, more than satisfying the above aims, and the acquisition of a secure and accessible locality for the group's archives was taken on with much enthusiasm in 1984, when the Local Studies Unit was formed. John Low had been employed in 1982 to establish a local history collection at the Blue Mountains City Library, and it soon became the *Local Studies* collection. John spent 25 years as Local Studies Librarian managing the Unit, retiring in 2007, and was succeeded by John Merriman. The Local Studies Unit, together with the management of its own archives, has since enabled the above objectives to continue to be achieved successfully, and the wider community identify with the Unit as being the holder and curator of Springwood's historical archives.

An agreement was made between the Historical Society and the Library that the Society's collection of photographs, documents, books, etc., would be housed with the Library's collection. The Society's material would remain its own property and would be labelled as such, and accessibility would be the same as that of the Local Studies collection. If Local Studies required, the Society could retrieve its collection and remove it from the Library. Members of the Springwood Historical Society spent a lot of time sorting, indexing and accessioning their material as it was integrated into the Local Studies collection.



Braemar today

The three rooms in Local Studies were named for prominent members of the Historical Society:

- The Searle Room (the Librarian's office) was named for Allan Searle, the Society's first research officer and author of several of its publications.
- The Morony Room (the reading room) was named for Tom Morony who was President from 1956 to 1987.
- The Bentley Room (where the files are stored) was named for Stan Bentley who succeeded Alan Searle as research officer.

Allan Searle, Jack Maddock and Stan Bentley were stalwart members of the Society. Allan Searle died in 1981, Stan Bentley and Tom Morony both in 1987 and Jack Maddock in 1992. The specific shelving in the reading room (The Morony Room) was paid for by the Society. It was designed so that it could be dismantled and relocated/re-used if required. The Society members who negotiated the agreement were the President at the time, Jack Maddock, and Vice-President, Gil Scott.

The proposed alterations to the existing Library facility focus on the refurbishment of the Library building itself. However, a part of the plan is to relocate Local Studies from *Braemar* to a more public library space, on the lower ground floor to provide a larger area for computer access and shelving, and also provide comfortable reading areas. It is not clear what purpose is proposed for the old *Braemar* building, although its external appearance is to be largely unaffected.

A wealth of time and effort has gone into the establishment and management of Blue Mountains Local Studies, through such people as John Low, John Merriman and the executive of the Society. Local Studies has achieved a high standing in the community as a history research archive, and it is hoped that in the final arrangements within the new refurbished building will have regard for this, for the history attached to the naming of the rooms in *Braemar* and the shelving, and for workable public accessibility to the historical collections. Also that the future use of the *Braemar* building will enhance its already high heritage status.

Patsy Moppett

References:

Braemar, Springwood: Local Studies Librarian, Blue Mountains Local Studies 2016
Springwood Library Upgrade: Email, Blue Mountains City Council 3rd February 2021
www.bluemts.com.au/historicalsociety
Heritage Impact Statement, Springwood Library: City Plan October 2020
Braemar inventory sheet: NSW Dept Planning, Industry & Environment 2002
Email discussions with Dick Morony, John Low, Jan Koperberg and John Merriman

Communities Flying the Heritage Flag

It is wonderful to read the latest issue of *Millstone* from The Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society, who are celebrating their twentieth anniversary. So much water under the bridge since they began back in 2001, and Steve Rawling has spent an age going through their archives, pulling out a range of dot point happenings for each year since that commencement. Many events we remember and many we had forgotten about, not to mention memories of past members who are no longer with us.

Looking across at other BMACHO members and associated groups it is interesting to see when they began too, and it is amazing to realise just how long the wider Blue Mountains community has been acknowledging, researching, recording, conserving, celebrating and promoting built and natural heritage over a generation and more.

Here is a fascinating snapshot:

<i>Cultural and Historical Organisations</i>	<i>Year opened</i>
<i>Historical Societies</i>	
Blue Mountains Historical Society	1946
Nepean District Historical Society	1947
Springwood Historical Society	1955
Hawkesbury Historical Society Inc.	1956
Mt Victoria & District Historical Society Inc. (was Mt York Historical Society)	1967
Glenbrook and District Historical Society	1993
Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society Inc.	1996
Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society	2001
<i>Family History Groups</i>	
Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc.	1986
Lithgow & District Family History Society Inc.	1986
Colo Shire Family History Group.	2015
<i>Museums and other groups</i>	
Scenic World	1945
Everglades House and Gardens (to National Trust)	1962
Lithgow – Eskbank House Museum	1966
Norman Lindsay Gallery and Museum (to National Trust)	1970
Zig Zag Railway (as a tourist facility)	1975
Woodford Academy Museum (to National Trust)	1979
Blue Mountains Local Studies	1982
Leuralla NSW Toy & Railway Museum	1984
City of Lithgow Mining Museum Inc	1990
Lithgow City Mining Museum	1990
Bygone Beautys Treasured Teapot Museum and Tearooms	1992
Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum	1994
Lithgow Small Arms Factory Museum	1996
Blue Mountain Education & Research Trust	2008
National Trust of Australia (NSW) – Blue Mountains Branch	1987
National Trust of Australia (NSW) – Lithgow Branch	TBA
Lithgow Local Studies	c.1970s

It can be seen that some groups came out of the devastating effects of World War II, but many others came from the demolition days of the 1960s and 1970s, when the community began to realise the importance of recording and preserving our heritage.

That said, it does not matter how long your group has been going, five years or fifty years. The fact that you are out there now spreading the word is reason enough to be significant. If you would like to tell us a bit about the beginnings of your group in a few paragraphs, simply contact the Editor and line up some space in a future Heritage Newsletter!!

Patsy Moppett

I found a piece of pottery.....

How often have you been out walking and found some pieces of broken earthenware or pottery or tiles and wondered about their origins, and how they came to be where you found them? Often the pieces contain no information to assist. However, when a piece does have the manufacturer's name or other detail, it is always interesting to follow this up.

Portland: Recently when walking in the Town Common near where I live at Portland, NSW, I found some pieces which I was able to research. The inscription read *Mauri Bros & Thomson, Sydney*. It was part of an earthenware jar some 8-9mm thick, brown on the outside and cream on the inside. So, I set to work.



Jar fragments from the Portland Common

The business Mauri Bros. & Thomson was established in 1872 by Mauri brothers, Joaquim and Jose, for growing and manufacturing cork, and importing goods and equipment for the cordial and aerated water trade. In 1895 the firm was sold to Ninian Miller Thomson (from 1940 the Thomson family-owned *Maryland*, near Bringelly, a successful dairying enterprise,

MAURI BROS. AND THOMSON, LTD.

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hand in Stock. 46 and 48 York st**

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LTD.—Importers of Soda Fountains,
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George st, Circular Quay. Tel. 906
City**

Advertising



Ginger beer jar

which dates back to the early 1800's) and in 1898 the London Office of Mauri Brothers was sold to Butler Bros. In 1899 Antonio San Miguel, of cork importers A San Miguel & Co, acquired an interest in Mauri Brothers & Thomson (Sydney) while Thomson and Edwin Charles Gutteridge became co-partners in the Melbourne firm of Mauri Brothers & Thomson. In December 1904, Gutteridge's interest in Mauri Brothers & Thomson and the Melbourne company of spice and essence manufacturers, Harrison San Miguel & Co, was bought out by Thomson, Antonio San Miguel and Harold Furley Harvey. The company was registered as Mauri Brothers & Thomson Ltd in New South Wales on 28 February 1905. The Engineering Works manufactured filters and crowners, soda fountains, ice cream making machines, egg whisks, dough and cake mixers, complete baking plants, chilling and carbonating cylinders for beer, and automatic bottle washing machinery. Over the next 50 years or so the company bought out or acquired shares in a number of other companies including Cornwalls. In June 1952 new subsidiary companies were registered for each Australian state using the name Mauri Brothers & Thomson. Mauri Bros & Thomson Ltd were acquired by Burns, Philp and Company Limited on 24 February 1982.

Hill End: On another occasion I was walking at Hill End in the central west of NSW, and wandered through Irish Town, past the site of a former dwelling. The site was a scattering of bricks and iron and other debris from the abandoned house, and included an unusual brick lined well. I found some fragments of a plate with the name *Anthony Shaw* on the back. The plate was white with a white embossed Lily of the Valley design on the front.



Plate fragments from Irish Town



Anthony Shaw's Burslem mark



Oval dish with flower pattern

Anthony Shaw was an English earthenware manufacturer at Tunstall, then Burslem, then Stoke-on-Trent in England, from 1851 to 1900. He was only at Tunstall for a year, and then moved on to Burslem. By 1855 Shaw was exporting ware to the United States (granite-ware & cream ware) and to South America (luster and painted ware). In 1855 Shaw was awarded a medal at the Paris Exhibition. In 1856 Shaw registered what was to become his famous "Tea Leaf" design and is considered to have produced the original Tea Leaf motif on his Sydenham, Niagara Fan and Chinese Shape body styles. Around 1857 Shaw rented the

Newport Works - a manufactory with 6 ovens in Newport Lane, Burslem - together with the adjacent Newport House. In the 1861 census he was recorded as living in "*Newport Hall*", Burslem with his wife Jane, their four children and four servants. His occupation was listed as "*Earthenware Manufacturer employing 290 hands*". Around 1860 Shaw built a new works alongside the Newport Works. He called this the Mersey Pottery - after Liverpool's River Mersey. Liverpool was the port where pottery was taken for export to the Americas. Both the Newport and Mersey Potteries were built on the bank of the Trent and Mersey Canal. In 1882 one of the sons joined the business and marks included "& Co". Anthony Shaw died in 1900 and the business was taken over by A. J. Wilkinson Ltd who already operated at the adjacent Newport Pottery.

My plate fragment mark with no town name is probably dated 1851 to 1860 but certainly prior to 1882 (when "& Co" was added).

Hill End: Again, at Hill End on another occasion, in the vicinity of the old Chinese graveyard site to the north west of the town, my sister found a glass bottle stopper, marked George Whybrow & Co.



Bottle stopper from Hill End



Wording displayed

George Whybrow was a pickle manufacturer who started a business in London around 1825. The above advertisement dates to about 1875. The company made various kinds of pickles, relishes, vinegars and salad oils, and from the mid-1870s operated from Wellclose Square (formerly known as Marine Square) in London. There is evidence that 48 Wellclose Square was used as a sugar refinery from 1794 to 1851 though even much earlier as premises were not given numbers in the references before that. The censuses of 1861 and 1871 still show No.48 as a sugarhouse, but in 1881 both 48 & 49 were uninhabited. In the mid-1870s the sugarhouse buildings were being used as a pickle factory by George Whybrow. He and others of the Whybrow family were oil men and oil importers from the 1840s to 1900. So, where they operated from 1825 to the mid 1875 is unsure.

Bottles embossed with the Whybrow name have been found at a number of archaeological sites in Australia, including the Conservatorium in Sydney, the Parramatta Children's Court site, at Rouse Hill, at Casselden Place in Melbourne, and obviously at Hill End! Our bottle stopper was probably from a vinegar, oil or sauce bottle.

Conclusions: To investigate these artifacts further can demonstrate the range of goods coming into Australia from overseas in the nineteenth century and how far and wide the goods spread throughout the colony.

Patsy Moppett

References:

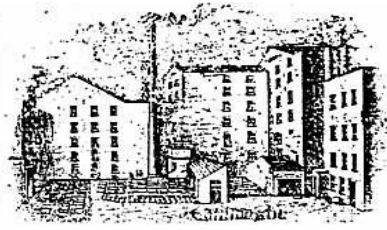
Mauri Brothers and Thomson Limited, Company deposit description 2012

www.ehive.com/collections/3136/objects/591698/stone-jar

www.thepotteries.org (William White, 1851 Directory of Staffordshire)

www.mawerclara.net The Refineries – 48 Wellclose Square

www.latrobe.edu.au Artefacts recovered from recent archaeological excavations at Hyde Park Barracks



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WHYBROW'S POPULAR 'RELISH'

"All the rage- being now for cheap and popular Sauces, we have little doubt that the 'RELISH' prepared by Mr. GEORGE WHYBROW, of 48, Wellclose Square, and sold in neatly-got-up bottles, at the price of 6p, will command a large sale. Any one who tastes the Sauce- will perceive that in the matter of ingredients it has been carefully prepared, and it has a sharp piquant flavour, which will be found very agreeable. Like other similar Sauces, it may be used with almost any description of Cold Meals, &c., and in such cases it will be found a pleasant accessory."— *The Grocer*, May 22nd, 1875.

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WELLCLOSE SQUARE, LONDON

Mt York - remember the white cross?

Many years ago I recall seeing the white cross on the cliff-edge at Mount York which could be seen from the Great Western Highway before ascending Victoria Pass from Hartley. The cross is long gone now but it faced west, just off the Mount York Road, some distance before the obelisk. The cross was constructed of steel and was erected about 1911 by Henry Marcus Clark (founder of Marcus Clark & Co. Ltd.).

The cross commemorated the death, on April 1st 1899, of his son Byron Henry Clark at the site of their Mount York home known as *Drachenfels*, which stood near the cliff edge facing



Marcus Henry Clark



The White Cross



Sefton Hall, Mt Wilson

Victoria Pass. The house and its extensive outbuildings, coach-house and orchard were lost in a bushfire in 1902. John Merriman of Blue Mountains Local Studies relates the circumstances of the structure being erected.

On the day of the tragedy, Mr. Clark was in Sydney, while his second wife Georgina and several friends were staying at "Drachenfels". Two of the Clark children, Hazel, aged 14 and Roland, 10, and a couple of companions decided to visit a small cave on the cliff face about 15 metres below the top and some distance along a ledge. The children were experienced in scrambling around the local rocks and cliffs and the descent presented no difficulties.

However, on this occasion, just as they had almost reached the cave, it was noticed that

their younger brother, Byron, aged 6, was following. He had already descended from the top of the cliff and was just commencing the traverse, when one of the girls, realising the danger, called to him to go back. The words had hardly left her mouth when the ledge of rock on which he was standing broke and he fell about 50 metres to the foot of the cliff, striking a ledge about half way down in the course of his fall. Two of the girls and young Roland Clark climbed back to the top of the cliff and informed Georgina, who set off with her companions by a round-about route to the base of the cliff. In the meantime, Hazel and Roland climbed down to the base of the cliff, where they found young Byron lying badly injured but scarcely marked amongst the fern and bracken. The women decided to carry him to the top but Byron died during the ascent. The family never again lived in "Drachenfels", which they placed in the care of Sam Wilson, a storekeeper at Mount Victoria, who made occasional visits to the property until the buildings were destroyed by bushfire. Byron is buried at Waverley Cemetery in the family plot. The property has changed hands a number of times in recent years and the cross was removed from the cliff edge by the owners around 1989 to discourage sightseers. The site known as the Marcus Clark Cross received Blue Mountains City Council heritage listing in 1991. It is believed the White Cross remains [elsewhere] on the site.

A series of tragedies plagued the Clark family over the years. Clark's first wife, Pattie had died unexpectedly in 1892 (possibly after childbirth as Byron was born that year), and with several small children to care for, a year later Clark married Pattie's sister May.

Tragedy struck the family yet again in 1906. Edna Kingsbury, aged 9, and Dorothy Gole, aged 10, were playing in the grounds of the Clark property *Sefton* at Dulwich Hill and drowned in the swimming pool.

Then in 1908, Clark's brother Theodore, aged 42, a director of the company, slipped down a lift shaft in the Flatiron building and was killed.

Tragically struck again when Clark himself died at his property *Sefton Hall* at Mt Wilson in 1913. He had become seriously ill and specialist physicians were sent up to Mt. Wilson from Sydney to advise on his condition. A decision was made to operate immediately – using the dining room table as an operating platform. Clark, did not however, survive the operation. The cause of death was given as pancreatitis and cholelithiasis. He was aged only 53.

Patsy Moppett

References:

The White Cross at Mt York, Blue Mountains Local Studies 2009

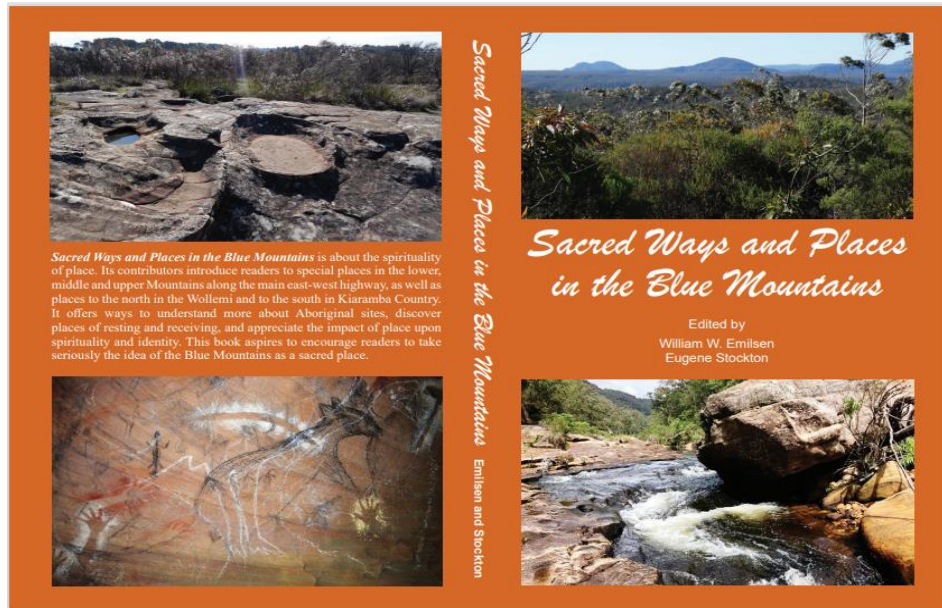
Bound to Rise: the Marcus Clark Connection: Churches of Christ in New South Wales, Occasional Papers in History and Theology Paper No. 2, 2011

Book launch: *Sacred Ways and Places in the Blue Mountains*

Edited by William W. Emilsen and Eugene Stockton

The book contains a number of essays covering *Sacred Ways and Places in the Blue Mountains*. Each essay is undertaken by a different author and they are arranged more or less chronologically. The first six concentrate exclusively on Aboriginal sites. The following nine relate to places in the landscape that have contemporary structures strategically imposed on them. They include:

- North Lawson Ridge – Eugene Stockton
- Cave Galleries and the Celestial Chamber – Michael Keats, Brian Fox, Yuri Bolotin
- Honeymoon Point – Mark Hillis
- Gordon Falls Reserve – William W. Emilsen
- Mount Solitary – Mel Macarthur with Matthew Peterson
- Leuralla Amphitheatre – Peggy Goldsmith
- Wentworth Falls Lake – Jenifer Tippins



The book will be launched by Councillor Romola Hollywood at 3 pm on Saturday 6th March 2021 at Our Lady of the Nativity Primary School.

The entrance is via 7 Somers Street, Lawson (side gate), and refreshments and drinks will be available. No EFTPOS is available with cheque or cash only. Orders/Invoices can be collected on the day.

RSVP: Due to COVID-19 restrictions, it would be appreciated if you would RSVP by return to: Email: secretary@bmert.org ,or Phone: 02 4758 7049 and leave a message if unanswered.

If you are unable to attend and would like to purchase *Sacred Ways and Places in the Blue Mountains* and any books from their catalogue please send order and postal address to secretary@bmert.org . An invoice with EFT bank details will be enclosed with the order.

RRP \$40 pre Book Launch, \$35 incl GST + p/h.

Sacred Ways and Places in the Blue Mountains is published by Blue Mountain Education and Research Trust www.bmert.org Allan Walsh

PLEASE NOTE THE CLOSING DATE FOR ARTICLES AND NOTIFICATIONS TO THE EDITOR FOR THE MAY-JUNE 2021 ISSUE OF HERITAGE IS 23rd APRIL 2021

Community events & updates

Lithgow attractions receive State funding

Further to an article in the previous *Heritage* Newsletter, which advised of the Lithgow Small Arms Factory Museum receiving funding from the Federal Government's Community Heritage Grants program to purchase storage equipment designed to protect and preserve historical documents, Lithgow has now benefitted from the NSW Government's Community Building Partnership program.

The Greater Lithgow Mining Museum has received a grant of \$20,000 to be directed toward repainting the bathhouse roof, a century old building integral to the operation of the Museum and other activities on the former State mine site.



Paul Toole announces funding – Greater Lithgow Mining Museum and Zig Zag Railway

In addition, the Zig Zag Railway has received \$1 million from the State Government's COVID-19 stimulus program to assist getting the railway back on track, by supporting improvements and repairs to the site following the bushfires and subsequent severe rain events, including replacing the Bottom Points Workshop. The railway has been a significant tourist attraction for over 40 years and the funding will assist volunteers in their efforts to once again operate steam trains on the site.

Patsy Moppett

Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum – the year that was

Keith Ward, Volunteer Chair, recalls that 2020 “has not been an easy year for anyone, especially those separated by family circumstances, rules and regulations or the tyranny of distance.



The Museum has been lucky in that some of our objectives were achieved: our artwork collection was safely housed off site during the fire threat early in the year; we successfully mounted a 90th birthday bash in February for ‘one-of-a-kind’ steam locomotive 5711, increasing awareness of this giant’s special heritage value, thus leading to a plan to fast-track work on its tender; (public Open Days were suspended from 9 March); in April, despite COVID lockdown, an authorised skeleton crew was onsite to implement anti-mould and pest deterrent measures on key exhibits; when the COVID picture cleared, we permitted a limited number of volunteers to return to ‘normal’ duties to maintain enthusiasm; we instituted a comprehensive suite of CovidSafe protocols and equipment, and after a false start in July, reopened to the public on Sunday 11 October. That occasion, plus the three final Open Days for the year (including our two Santa events) were all pre-booked, complying with government guidelines, and sold out fairly quickly.

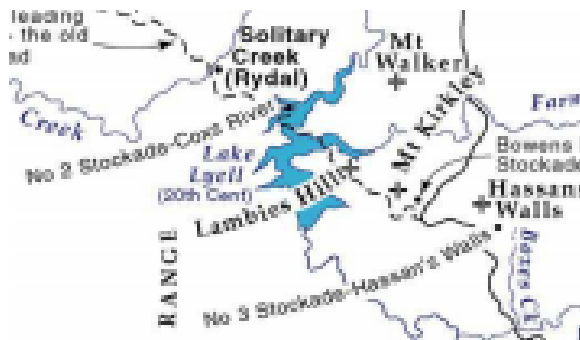
Keith says that there are many projects to come which will continue regardless of the success or otherwise of their public events. One thing is certain, that they will maintain their spirit of camaraderie and endeavour, while gaining the satisfaction of a job well done. The group invite you to spread the word on social media, read their Depot Diary and visit the site in 2021.

Midweek inspections can be pre-arranged, or just book in for one of their monthly (for now) Open Days. Check the website for details www.infoblue-mountains.net.au/locodepot

The Bloody Cutting

Further to an article in the September-October 2019 issue of *Heritage*, Ramsay Moodie provides an update on the outcome of the road naming process for Bloody Cutting Road near Lithgow. Ramsay reports:

September 2020 saw the renaming of a long since bypassed portion of Mitchell's 1832 Bathurst Road where it climbs a steep ridge near Rydal just west of the Blue Mountains. Renamed Bloody Cutting Road at the behest of local historians and the Lithgow Branch of the National Trust, the new name acknowledges the Bloody Cutting, an eighty metre defile, a single cart width wide, cut by hand through hard rock by Surveyor General Mitchell's convict road gangs in the 1830s. This name change highlights the historic significance of this short piece of Mitchell's 1832 road to Bathurst that had long been relegated to the role of an unnamed secondary road leading down to the backwaters of Lake Lyell.



Extract of map from Sue Rosen's thesis "That Den of Infamy: The No.2 Stockade Cox's River"



Newly erected sign on the Rydal Road

In the 1830s the country at the top of Lake Lyell was home to nearly seven hundred convicts and their keepers at the No 2 Stockade Cox's River. That was at a time when Lithgow's only residents were Andrew Brown of Coorwull and Bowenfels and Thomas Brown at Eskbank further up the Valley. Convicts slaved on the road from Mt Victoria to Mt Lambie but no section of that work was more detested than the Bloody Cutting, the defile cut through the bottom of the Rydal ridge, as we might call it now, to access the north slope of the ridge, facilitating the road's climb to cross the divide at Mt Lambie.

Located just up the hill from the site of the infamous No 2 Stockade Cox's River, the cutting's name captures the angst these early workers felt for this element of the Western Road project. This renaming by Lithgow City Council, drawing on the convicts' own vernacular, will forever be a reminder of its painful history.

Ramsay Moodie - Lithgow Branch of the National Trust Australia (NSW)

Editor's note: Following erection of the new sign, it was subsequently stolen! Council has however, erected a new sign in its place.

Blue Mountains History Conference 2021

BMACHO has rescheduled the BM History Conference, which was to be held in May 2020, but was cancelled due to COVID19. It will now be held on 8th May 2021, as part of the Australian Heritage Festival.

The theme is *Industrial Heritage* and the keynote address will be given by Ray Christison, Chair of Museums & Galleries NSW, who will present the *Ian Jack Address*.

It should be noted that the Conference will be dedicated to Emeritus Professor Dr Ian Jack, who passed away in early September 2019, the President of BMACHO at the time, and who was to be the keynote speaker at this Conference.

So, Save the Date – Saturday 8th May 2021!



AUSTRALIAN
HERITAGE FESTIVAL



Coerwul viaducts at Lithgow

Other speakers are expected to be as follows:

- Keith Painter: 1920s Chert Ventures at Mt Victoria.
- Phil Hammon: Searching for the [mining] remains.
- Garry Reynolds: Why Wallerawang [railways].
- David Mort: Thomas Mort's picnic train to Lithgow, & the frozen food trade.
- Bob McKillop: Furnace, Fire & Forge.
- Renzo Benedet: The Lithgow Small Arms Factory.
- Vaughan Bryers: Lithgow's Zig Zag Brewery 1888-1958.
- Naomi Parry: Being in itself probably the most important of all relics: Eskbank House.

Registration will begin at 8.45am on the day and the Conference will commence at 9.15 am, to be held at Lithgow Workmen's Club, 3-7 Tank Street, Lithgow

Cost: \$70 for the Conference, tea/coffee on arrival, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea.

Bookings for the Blue Mountains History Conference 2021 are now open through

TryBooking <https://www.trybooking.com/BOZKU>

The Conference will be held having regard for the COVID19 situation and any restrictions placed upon attendees by the Club. Lithgow Workies is a recognised COVID Safe Business, and will have regard for access, hand sanitisation, social distancing and capacity restrictions.

Blue Mountains Association of Cultural and Heritage Organisations NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Sixteenth Annual General Meeting of Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations Incorporated (BMACHO), will be held at **2.00 pm Saturday 20th March 2021 at the History Centre Seminar Room, Blue Mountains Historical Society, 99 Blaxland Road, Wentworth Falls.**

Nominations for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and committee members are to be in the hands of the Secretary before 11.00 a.m. on Friday 12 March 2021.

Nominations can be scanned and emailed to committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au

or posted to: Secretary, BMACHO, 1/19 Stypanra Place, Springwood, 2777



The Guest Speaker will be Fiona Burn: “Barr & Furniss – Discovering Real Estate Treasures”

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Seminar Room can only admit 18, therefore it would be appreciated if you would RSVP by return to:

Email: committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au or Ph: 0410 198 737 or 02 4751 5834, and leave a message if unanswered.

The Notice of Meeting/Nomination Form, an Agenda, Draft Minutes of the 2020 AGM and the Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2020 have been circulated.

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 slowly opening up following on from the corona virus situation, although 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 late 2021 or 2022.

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 Stypanra 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 Co-ordinator), 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.

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

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