

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.

Sir Francis Forbes, first Chief Justice of NSW (1784-1841)

Sir Francis Forbes was the first Chief Justice of New South Wales, appointed to oversee the reform of the administration of law and order in the colony of New South Wales, following the inquiry into the colony's affairs by Commissioner Bigge and Bigge's subsequent reports of 1822 and 1823. Bigge's investigations began in 1819 following the far reaching changes made in the Colony by Governor Lachlan Macquarie. Before Forbes set up the court system in Australia, people were tried by legal tribunals. Bigge was keen to grant greater jurisdiction to the Local Courts which had previously been administered from England.

In the early 1830s Sir Francis Forbes owned the only estate west of the Nepean River, at Emu Plains. Forbes was granted 120 acres at Emu Plains and also 2,560 acres in the Upper Hunter Valley. This land at Muswellbrook, was increased by purchase and used as a cattle run known as *Skellatar* (*Skellater*).



Edinglassie, Emu Plains, by Conrad Martens 1835

The Edinglassie (or Edenglassie) land grant was at the southern end of Emu Plains, south of Jamison Creek, and upstream from the Emu Plains prison farm, being named after one of

the Forbes family estates in Scotland. Forbes used the property as a country retreat rather than a working farm. It is believed that there must have been some sort of dwelling on this grant as early as 1827, as Captain William John Dumaresq described it in his journal as ...*the picturesque and romantic retreat of Edinglassie* Edinglassie is a combination of Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Forbes' almost circular-shaped house was built between the River and Cox's Road, just before the ascent to the Mountains.



Extract Ph Strathdon, Emu Plains, showing land owned by Francis Forbes

History of the man

Forbes was born and educated in Bermuda, the son of Dr. Francis Forbes M.D. and his wife Mary, née Tucker, formerly of Kingston, Jamaica. His grandfather, Dr. George Forbes had moved to the Bermudas after the Battle of Culloden. His elder half-brother was the Very Rev Patrick Forbes, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 1829.

At the age of 19 Francis travelled to London, where he studied law. He entered Lincoln's Inn and was called to the Bar in 1812. He became a Crown Law Officer back in Bermuda and married Amelia Sophia Grant in 1813, returning to England in 1815. Amelia was the fifth child of the leading surgeon Dr Grant of Kingston, Jamaica, being born there in 1795. By 1816 Forbes sought advancement. Forbes had been Bermuda's most distinguished native son jurist, and after serving as Bermuda's Attorney General from 1810, he was appointed to Newfoundland after the end of the American war later in 1816. He served until 1821 and was influential in securing Newfoundland colonial status and the establishment of constitutional government. One of his first official acts was to survey the convicts in the primitive jail and make recommendations for clemency to Governor Francis Pickmore. As there had been no chief justice in the island for 18 months, prisoners who were serving time for crimes such as larceny and perjury had endured long sentences without review. Forbes's letter on the occasion is noteworthy for its compassion and concern for justice.

Relating to his experiences, in 1820 he wrote the lyrics of the song *The Banks of Newfoundland*.

By 1821 the incessant work in court, together with the severe climate of Newfoundland, had affected his health and he requested a leave of absence in Britain. In May 1822, supported

by a letter from his physician, Forbes reported to Governor Hamilton that his health “....*has suffered and is still suffering,*” and asked for leave of four months to return to England. On his arrival in England in 1822, Forbes had conveyed to Lord Bathurst his “....*hope of removal*” from Newfoundland, and it was made known to him in August that, if he wished it, he could have the appointment of chief justice in the new supreme court in New South Wales.

Even though he was in recuperation, the English authorities had asked him for his advice about setting up a proper legal system in Australia. When he was asked to be the first Chief Justice of New South Wales in June 1823, he officially was given the job in October 1823. Francis Forbes, his wife Amelia and their three sons arrived in Sydney in March 1824 on the *Guildford* and the Court commenced on 17 May 1824. Until a house in Macquarie Place, previously occupied by Judge Barron Field, was ready for their use, they stayed with Governor Sir Thomas Brisbane, and thus began a close friendship.

The *Guildford* was built on the Thames in 1810, and this was her sixth voyage bringing convicts to NSW. The Captain was Magnus Johnson. The ship held 160 convicts and their guard, and the journey took 190 days, with only one death being recorded.

The *Guildford* arrived at Portsmouth from the Downs on 13th August 1823 and departed Portsmouth on 18th August in company with the *Asia*, which was taking convicts to Van Diemen's Land. The *Guildford* sprang a leak after leaving Teneriffe and was compelled to put into Rio de Janeiro for repairs. When the *Guildford* arrived in Sydney on 5th March 1824 the Sydney Gazette reported:

Arrived on Friday last to the joy of the whole Colony, alarming apprehensions being entertained of her safety, the ship Guildford, Captain Johnson, from England. She brings 159 male convicts: the original complement was 160, but one was accidentally killed.

In a short time, Governor Brisbane reported that “..... *since the arrival of the chief justice the state of the Colony has assumed a new tone*”. Forbes had no difficulties with Brisbane, but it was not long before he came into conflict with the next governor, Sir Ralph Darling. It was proposed to pass acts for the purpose of restraining the liberty of the press, and Forbes refused to certify them as he considered them repugnant to the laws of England. After great discussion the issue went to the Colonial Office, whose legal advisors were of opinion that Forbes was right in refusing to certify the Act for licensing newspapers.

In November 1824 the charter of the Australian Agricultural Co. was issued. On its local committee the Macarthurs were very strongly represented. When invited to comment on the wisdom of the company's million-acre (404,690 ha) grant, Forbes reported adversely on the formation of large estates and favoured ‘*unlocking the land*’ for settlers, which drew an antagonistic response from the company's committee, particularly John Macarthur.

Forbes was also a member of the Legislative Council and was made President in August 1824. In December he was made a member of the Executive Council as well. These two extra positions were political jobs and put him into conflict with his job as a judge. As Chief Justice he had to be sure that new laws were in agreement with the laws of England, which gave him the power to veto any new law in Australia.

When Brisbane was relieved of his duties in 1825, he wrote to his friend and colleague Francis Forbes: *I have never yet considered myself under the same degree of obligation to any human being; neither have I ever entertained the same esteem and regard for any person as I feel towards yourself.*

Governor Darling and his party were violently opposed to the introduction of free institutions, constantly fighting Forbes on every front. Forbes found Darling*quite unacquainted with civil business...* and possessed of *less knowledge of the laws of his country than any gentleman filling his high official station whom it was ever [his] fortune to meet* When Forbes, advising Darling at Darling's own request, judged illegal his action in commuting the sentence imposed on Privates Sudds and Thompson, and when newspapers criticized the governor's handling of the case, Forbes's opinion was upheld and Thompson's release was ordered. Sudds had been released by death.

As a strong advocate for free education, Forbes laid the foundation stone for the non-denominational Sydney College (now Sydney Grammar School), in 1830 and remained as chairman of the board of trustees when the school opened in 1835.

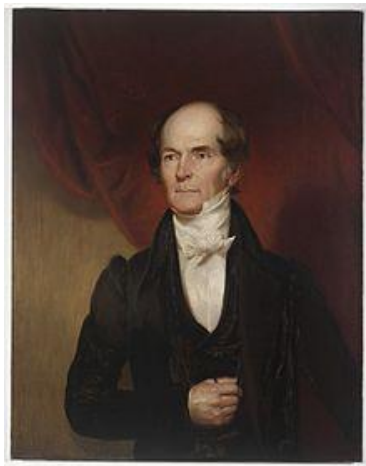
Forbes was described as the model of an excellent judge, *imperturbably calm in temper, acute in discrimination and thoroughly acquainted with legal principles*. Other practitioners praised his rules of court and found them simpler than the costly procedures in the courts at Westminster.

However, Forbes' workload was heavy, his controversy with Darling was harassing, and his health suffered. He suffered serious bouts of illness, including influenza, from 1826.

Unwell, he secured a year's leave and returned to England in 1836. Forbes was held in such esteem by his fellow colonists that a committee presented him with a candelabrum with the engraving: "*To the Honorable the Chief Justice Forbes in token of respect and esteem for his public and private virtues. The colonists of New South Wales 1836.*" He retired in 1837 was knighted in that year at St James Palace by King William IV. While in England he gave evidence before the Select Committee on Transportation.

Sir Francis and Lady Forbes returned to Australia on the *Alfred* in 1838, and Forbes died in 1841 aged 57 years at his home at Leitrim Lodge, Newtown, Sydney.

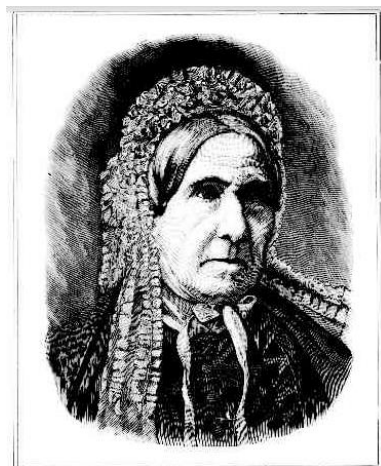
Lady Forbes died in April 1886, leaving two sons. One son had died at an early age in the Californian gold rush. The obituary in the Illustrated Sydney news stated that Amelia acted as Forbes' private secretary, undertaking both private and public correspondence for him. Without her, Sir Francis could not have endured as long as he did. Even when his health failed him and he sought rest back in England, the authorities still drove him to draft the laws which enabled the first measure of responsible government for the NSW colony. She was detailed as having.....*worked so hard and suffered so much; suffered so much in watching the husband whom she loved so dearly, sacrifice himself on the altar of what he conceived to be his duty*. She was described by the paper as ...*amiable gentle & accomplished, ... a faithful wife fond mother a true and firm friend and had no enemies*.



Sir Francis Forbes



The 1836 candelabrum



Lady Amelia Forbes

The Forbes properties

Emu Plains: Edinglassie to Leonay: On his land grant south of Jamison Creek, Forbes built his country retreat, and managed it from 1826 to 1834 in close association with the nearby government agricultural farm. The Forbes family retained the property until 1870. When *Edinglassie* was later demolished some of the stone was utilized to build a Methodist church at Emu Plains in 1863.

History of the Emu Plains property *Edinglassie* shows that it was subdivided as part of the Jamison Estate, and in 1851 thirty hectares sold to W. Russell (now part Leonay). In June 1914 Leo and Nay Buring purchased the remainder of the Edinglassie Estate (376 acres) for £2,200, being most of the southern and western parts of the estate. Evidence of the

Edinglassie home was still evident on the ground at this stage, and Buring sought to preserve this.



Edinglassie, Emu Plains, mid 1800s



Leonay

Buring was born in 1876 in Adelaide but studied at Geisenheim Viticulture College on the Rhine, Germany, and in 1898 attended the Viticultural College at Montpellier in France. It was in 1902 when he married Ida (Nay) Sobels, from another great vigneron family. By 1917 the Burings had built their large rambling home and named it *Leonay*, being the combinations of Leo and Nay, the reported nickname of his wife Ida. By 1923 they had produced their first wines on the farm. Just before the commencement of WWII in 1937 Leo commenced the design and construction of the Leonay Country Club. A weatherboard clad cottage on his property (opposite the present entrance driveway) became the Club House. Leo Buring later became an alderman on the Blue Mountains Council. Buring was known to have had a small fort on the property, Fort Sanctuary, constructed to overlook his vineyard. Many homeless people apparently made use of Fort Sanctuary as a shelter until it was boarded up in 1987. The Burings actually maintained a zoo at the property at some time, supplying Australian animals to zoos around the world. Just shy of 85 years of age, Leo died at his home on 29th September 1961. The vineyards were sold to Barnay Pty Ltd, a consortium of local businessmen, and the land was subdivided for residential development. Ida continued to live on at the home until her death in 1966.

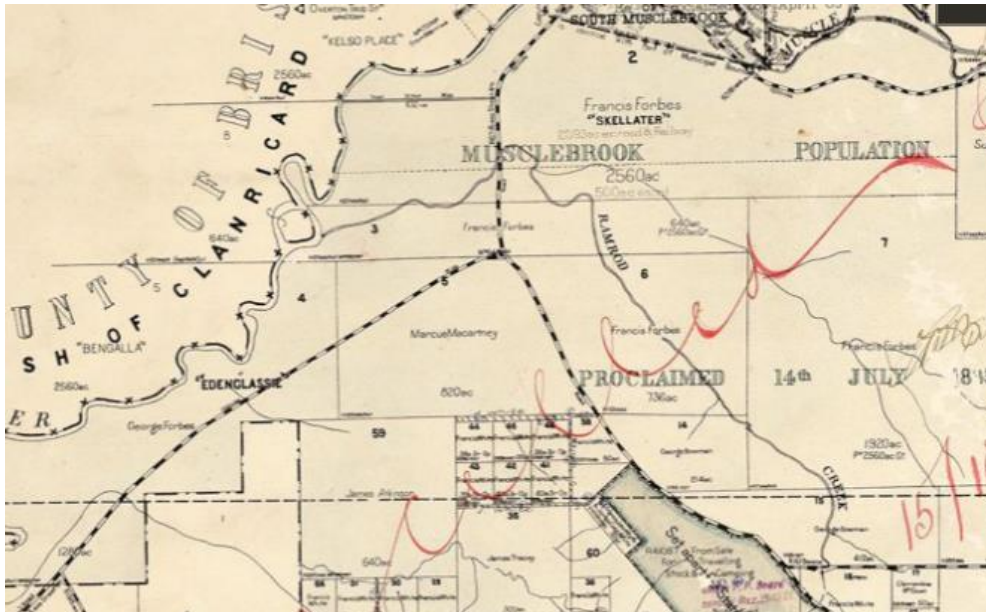
The Hunter Valley

Skellatar: History of Francis Forbes' land grant in the Upper Hunter Valley, the cattle run known as *Skellatar*, shows that the grant was not retained by Forbes for long. *Skellatar* was named after the family estate near Aberdeen, Scotland. After Sir Francis' death in 1841 the estate was the subject of a mortgagee sale, leaving his widow penniless.

In 1846 the property was purchased by the wealthy Bowman family, and in 1848 it was divided between William Bowman and his twin brothers Andrew and Edward, sons of George Bowman. In 1881 Andrew and Edward, both lawyers, started work on the plans for a grand manor home on their portion of the estate. *Skellatar* House was finally designed by Edmund Blacket in 1883. The Bowmans continued ownership until purchase by the Catholic Church and the establishment of a school in the building in 1953. Since 1997 it has been privately owned, and its history faithfully recorded by the current owners.

Edinglassie: In November 1824, soon after his arrival in Australia, Francis Forbes had gone with Governor Brisbane to Moreton Bay and was invited to name the site selected for a settlement on the Brisbane River; he named it *Edinglassie*, but his choice was soon forgotten. Subsequently Francis' brother George, took up a land grant of 1280 acres in 1839 in the Hunter. George had come to Australia with his brother in 1824 on the *Guildford*. He stocked his estate, called *Edinglassie*, with fine wool sheep and acted as superintendent on his brother's estate *Skellatar*.

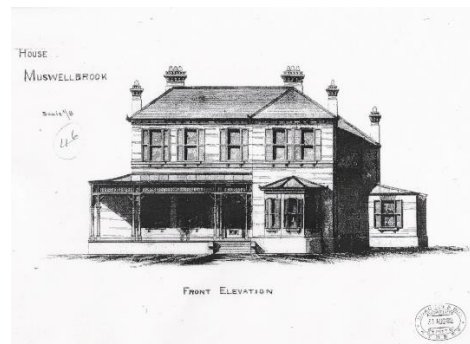
However, he also soon sold his property to James White, later in 1839. Subsequently the house we see today was built for James White by John Horbury Hunt, commencing in 1880. The White family dynasty owned the property for many years.



Extract from Ph Brougham, Muswellbrook, showing Edenglassie and Skellatar



Edinglassie



Skellatar

Edinglassie, in the Hunter Valley at Muswellbrook, has also had wine making origins, with Bob Oatley establishing Rosemount Wines there. The grand building has survived threats from coal mining and survives today, as a thriving thoroughbred stud.

Although these two stately homes we see today were not built until the later part of the 19th Century, one condition of the original grants would have been that the properties be occupied. Both Francis and George, having named their properties, would have constructed some sort of accommodation for themselves and their overseers at the time. It was for future owners to construct the namesake buildings which have become part of the Hunter's heritage.

Conclusion

Australia owes much to Sir Francis Forbes, who significantly brought out the first charter of justice for NSW, established trial by jury, and gave liberty to the press. He procured the right for prisoners to be defended by Counsel, he advanced public education, and protected people from oppression. As chairman of many select committees of the Legislative Council Forbes prepared and signed their reports, including one on immigration. Forbes wrote essays on transportation for James Stephen and the commissioners reporting on criminal law in England and favoured the gradual discontinuance of transportation. Within three years of his comments transportation to New South Wales was discontinued, and free immigration had greatly increased.

Ultimately Sir Francis Forbes was responsible for converting the legal system of New South Wales from that of a penal colony, with total legal power vested in the Governor, to that of a free settlement.

The town of Forbes in central NSW was named after Sir Francis Forbes, as is the Francis Forbes Society for Australian Legal History. There is a Forbes Street in Emu Plains.

Patsy Moppett

Note: References are provided in separate attachment.

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Food for thought Editor’s note

ANZAC Day 2021



Memorial Card – Sydney War Memorial

Some weeks ago, the Australian Government made the difficult decision to cancel the Australian led overseas Anzac Day services at Gallipoli in Turkey and near Villers-Bretonneux in France for 2021.

The health and safety of all Australians and visitors to major Anzac Day commemorations overseas was paramount, and expert advice from Australia and internationally is that large public gatherings still presented an unacceptable risk under the COVID19 virus. However, many memorial services were still held across Australia in memory of those who paid the ultimate price, those who returned home scared for evermore by the horrors of war, and those who were left behind to keep the homes fires burning.

Embroidered Silk Postcards

There are many aspects of war which we choose to remember and many we choose to put aside, but we shall never forget. One treasured memento often found in family collections were the embroidered postcards sent both to and from the front, from mother to son, and son to mother, from son to sister, from husband to wife and from young man to sweetheart. It was a common souvenir from the First World War, sometimes known as Sweetheart Cards. They were usually blank rectangular postcards, cream coloured, onto which an embossed paper surround was glued, to frame and hold a central piece of silk. On the silk, a design was hand-embroidered in coloured thread.



There were a huge number of designs, generally patriotic or sentimental, all seeking to show the bright colours of the threads to best effect. Flags, butterflies, birds and rainbows feature strongly. Also embroidered – usually in a single colour - are a few words.

A silk pocket effect could also feature, into which a tiny, pre-printed card could be found. The postcards were very popular with British and Canadian soldiers who often sent them home. They were sold in thin paper envelopes but were seldom sent through the post in them. They were too fragile and, more particularly, they represented quite an investment – they were not cheap souvenirs. Usually, they were mailed with letters. For this reason, they are often not written upon, with no marks on the back, any message having been sent in an accompanying letter.



Background and production

Woven silk postcards were first produced in Krefeld, Germany in 1898 as a combination of printed postcards and large woven silk pictures, known as Stevengraphs. The early cards were woven on machines, and being machine made, the woven cards always maintained a high standard. So embroidered silk postcards were used for sentimental greetings in France well before 1914. They were first displayed in 1900 for the Paris Exposition, and some continued to be manufactured until the 1950s. A thriving cottage industry began around 1915 and the quality of the early silks was quite high. However later, the later workmanship was often not quite as high, while efforts were made to satisfy demand.

Postcard companies began to employ women to produce silks on a rough assembly line basis. The cards were generally hand embroidered on strips of silk mesh with as many as 25

on a strip. They were mostly embroidered by French or Belgian women in their homes as *out-work* by civilians, and in the UK by Belgian refugees.



Production peaked during the 1914-18 war, as the format proved so popular with the soldiers. The designs were repeatedly embroidered on rolls of silk. These were then sent to cities (mainly Paris) for cutting up, final assembly and distribution, in what was probably at that stage a factory operation.

Production declined substantially from 1919, until ending around 1923. An estimated 10,000,000 handmade cards were produced from 1915 to 1919.



There was a resurgence in popularity in 1939-40, when they were also sent home by members of the second British Expeditionary Force. These later examples tend to have more muted colours, and a *crimped cut* edge to the card.

During this period, machine made cards were produced which were simpler and plainer, with less variations, and they never gained the popularity of their WWI predecessors.

Some of the themes shown on the cards included:

- Remembrance
- Liberty
- Unity
- Souvenirs of France and Belgium
- Souvenirs of the war
- Regimental badges and crests

Care and conservation

Silk is a particularly difficult material to preserve, being sensitive to light, handling, and humidity extremes and fluctuations. Close examination of most cards will show some tearing of the silk, and there may be small holes developing. The card used in the First World War was also often poor quality, and today will exhibit brown staining (known as 'foxing') due to acids. Careful storage in specialist polyester sleeves and archive-quality boxes is the most practical route to extending the life of these precious artifacts.

An original silk card should not be framed for display – they will quickly fade, even if placed away from direct sunlight.

Patsy Moppett

References: NSW Dept of Veterans Affairs

Imperial War Museums: www.iwm.org.uk

Australian War Memorial: www.awm.gov.au

Textile Research Centre, Leiden: www.trc-leiden.nl

Museums Victoria, Lara RSL Sub Branch: Memento, Sweetheart Cards WW1, World War I

The City of Greater Lithgow Mining Museum Inc, Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park - Concept Plan for a memorial to the pit horses of the Western Coalfield

The Museum is currently seeking funding to develop a memorial to the pit horses of the Western Coalfield under the latest *Create NSW* program of Organisational Grants. This project will be focused on the left hand gully adjacent to the museum and will reinforce museum interpretations of the role of horses in the mining industry. It will harness the museum's creatives in residence to create a work of public art that enhances the role of the museum as a hub for artists and creatives, and it will harness partnerships with local environmental groups to carry out remediation of bushland around the museum site.



To quote directly from the Concept Plan by Ray Christison, President/Public Officer, The City of Greater Lithgow Mining Museum Inc:

Horses working underground and on the surface were critical to the success of mining in the NSW coalfields throughout the 19th century and much of the 20th century. These animals worked alongside miners, facing the same challenges and dangers as their human companions. Miners developed close bonds with their horses and there are numerous stories of horses saving the lives of men caught underground. The region's horses also endured disaster, such as that which occurred in the Lithgow State Coal Mine on the night of 11 August 1953.

The museum has determined that a memorial should be constructed on the site at which the horses killed in 1953 were buried in the left hand gully. This place, located in rehabilitated bushland adjacent to the museum, overlooks the site of the Lithgow State Coal Mine. It is adjacent to a beautiful glade that has become popular for wedding ceremonies. The memorial and associated landscaping are planned to activate the space around the mine's explosion barrier, further connecting this special space with the museum complex

On the night of 11th August 1953, a fire started underground in the Lithgow State Coal Mine. The fire was fanned by the ventilation air flow towards the upcast shaft. Smoke from the fire travelled rapidly along the outbye road leading towards this shaft. Ted Cafe was the Deputy in charge of the dog watch. He had a crew of 12 men. The fire started at a place between them and the mine entrance. Fortunately, the men were able to use two headings to get around the fire and escape danger. Twenty-seven horses were stabled for the night in an underground stable located near the outbye. Smoke and carbon monoxide were pushed into their stables by the ventilation airflow. The horses kicked and struggled to get out of their stalls but were eventually overcome by the fumes. Rats fleeing the fire were also killed by the fast-moving gases. Four other horses, including the little horse Duke, were stabled in an area adjacent to the main transport road known as the horse yard. These horses were unaffected by the smoke and were rescued the following day. Over the following days fire and rescue crews fought to contain the blaze, which was burning fiercely in pillars "...on a 200 yards (182.8m) front close to the main transport road...". Additional rescue teams came from as far afield as Kandos and Oakdale to fight the fire. Early on the morning of 13 August the fire fighters were forced back by intense heat when the fire appeared to be getting out of control. By 14 August the fire had been controlled by the crews who had worked to almost beyond the point of exhaustion. A week after the fire started the stables were sectioned off

from the fire affected area by a brattice stopping placed over a doorway. A day shift crew went in to recover the bodies of the horses killed by the fumes. When the crew, led by Livestock Overseer Hilton "Mutt" Fisher, entered the stables many of the men were overcome by the horrible smell of rotting flesh and the sight of the dead horses. Only seven or eight men, including Mutt Fisher, Ned Curry, Les Green, Jack Maffity, Ron Stait and Jack Weekes were able to stay and carry out the grisly work of extracting the carcasses. The horse bodies had to be loaded onto trolleys and wheeled out of the mine. When taken to the surface the bodies were dumped into a pit in the mine's horse paddock and burned. The stench was so powerful that men working on the surface could not remain in their workplaces. The *Lithgow Mercury* reported that horses working at pit top "...stamped about in terror..." at the nauseating odour of the dead animals. The pit top was closed for some time until the horse bodies were destroyed. The day shift recovered 15 bodies and a separate night shift team removed the rest. It took all of the following day to burn the horse bodies on pyres built from old timbers.

Pit Horse Memorial

The project will serve to:

- Commemorate the service of horses in the mining industries of the Western Coalfield;
- Recognise the horses killed in the 1953 underground fire at the Lithgow State Coal Mine;
- Complement existing interpretations to enhance the Lithgow State Mine Museum's capacity to engage the public in the story of the coal industry;
- Create a quality public artwork and complementary landscaping that enhance the character and significance of the State Mine Left Hand Gully precinct;
- And enhance the reputation of the Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park as a place at which history, environment and creative endeavour are celebrated.

History of the site

To supply steam trains in 1916, the NSW Railway Commissioners sank the main shaft of a new colliery in the Lithgow valley and reached the coal seam in 1921. The Railway Mine became the State Mine in 1932 under the *State Coal Mines Amendment Act*, which transferred management to a Control Board with representatives from the Departments both of Railways and Mines. The mine operated in conjunction with the adjacent electric powerhouse (opened in 1922 and connected to the mine by conveyor belt). The mine operated for over 40 years, finally closing in 1964 because of the grave danger of flooding from other workings. The mine buildings have now become the Mining Museum which includes exhibits from Hartley Vale and Glen Davis oil-shale plants as well as colliery and railway items. The Museum contains Australia's most comprehensive collection of coalmining artefacts, including coal cutters, coal loaders, continuous miners and underground transports.



State Mine 1960



State Mine 1929



Lithgow powerhouse

The Museum was developed from 1990 when the former Lithgow State Coal Mine site on the northern outskirts of Lithgow was given to the community by the now delisted mining company, Austen & Butta Ltd. The community has long acknowledged the importance of the Museum and its volunteers in continuing to showcase the history of coal mining in the area. A significant exhibit titled "Fire in the Mine" explores the working lives of coalminers in the mid 1900s and the horrific consequences of the 1953 underground fire.

It is interesting to note that newspaper reports of the time did sometimes mention the demise of the ponies in the 1953 fire, as well as the enormous struggle to contain the fire and remove poisonous fumes from the works to enable work to recommence.

Ponies in mining

The *Australian Town & Country Journal* reported in March 1874 that little ponies were employed at the Hartley shale works to draw shale to the surface adit, driven by wheeler boys. The observer noted that these ponies did not seem to be affected by their underground work, their load was comparatively light, and they actually spent much time in the open air. They were strong yet docile.



From 1909 to 1968 the State Coal Mine at Wonthaggi in Victoria employed hundreds of boys and men but they also employed workers who never received a cent, the little horses called pit ponies. Mine history records that often they would be bred specifically for the job as they had to be strong and shockproof. They were taught to react solely to voice commands and they learnt to trot with their heads down. Their size varied from 10 to 14 hands and usually they were thickset and broad across the chest.

These were remarkable animals. A pony worked an eight hour shift, five days a week. They travelled underground in an elevator type cage, two at a time and once down would be harnessed and used to drag the skips along the miles of tunnels and shafts. The work was hot and dirty so at the end of their day they travelled back up to the surface, the cage door opened and like children after a day of school would race to their stalls before being given a bath and a feed each night. On weekends they were turned out in the lush green paddocks around the mine. the Wonthaggi ponies were well looked after compared to the ones overseas.

A number of disasters occurred at the Wonthaggi mine over time, such as at Lithgow. In 1937 an explosion killed thirteen miners along with one of the pit ponies. A massive recovery job was done to bring out the bodies of the miners and that of the pony.

In Europe and the UK there have been numerous strikes in early mining years regarding the inhumane way that pit ponies were used and abused. However, overall they are loved, and it is reassuring to know that most of these gentle little workhorses found homes with sympathetic families and miners after their working lives came to an end.

The erection of a monument to pit horses at Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park is indeed a worthy cause.

Patsy Moppett

Note: References are provided in separate attachment.

Kerosine Creek Bridge upgrades completed

The works on the iconic little Kerosine Creek bridge on the Hartley Vale Road at Hartley Vale have finally been completed. The works were flagged in BMACHO's *Heritage* Newsletter No. 64 September-October 2019. During routine inspections by Lithgow City Council it was found that the bridge required urgent attention, and a study was undertaken By professor Ian Jack to establish the provenance of the structure. The bridge was immediately closed by Lithgow City Council and a temporary bridge installed. Council has subsequently worked with the local community, heritage consultants, structural engineers and State authorities to protect the heritage value of the structure while restoring it to modern safety and structural standards.

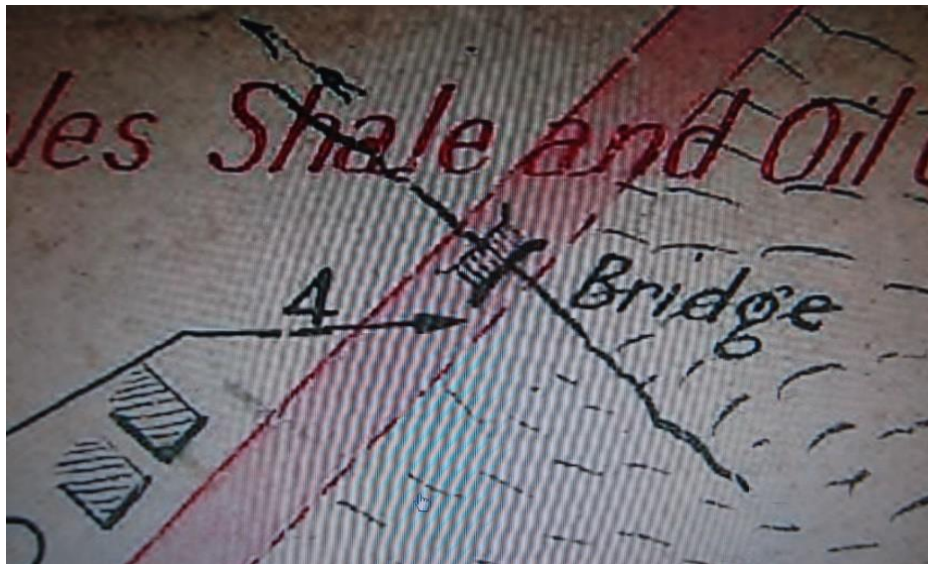
The works involved installation of a new concrete deck and steel beam construction, whilst retaining the old sandstone abutments. Timber logs and handrails have been erected to help disguise the modern structure and retain the integrity of the historic asset.



The old bridge in 2020, prior to restoration

The bridge was built in the early 1800s, probably of timber, being part of the original Bells Line of Road from Kurrajong and Tomah, and connected Hartley Vale (formerly Petrolea Vale) to the Darling Causeway. The bridge was included in works orchestrated by Windsor solicitor, Thomas Darling, and was completed by mid-1840. Hartley Vale Road is the only viable route westwards off the middle portion of the Darling Causeway. On his first expedition in August 1823, Archibald Bell had been unable to find a way down, but subsequently this narrow pass was found. Darling then had work to do to improve the descent, which still retains some challenging narrow bends between a sheer cliff face on the south and a sharp drop to the River Lett on the north.

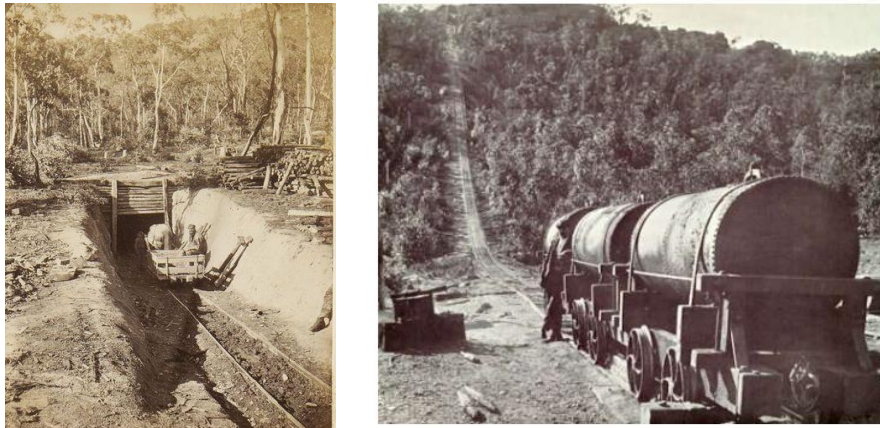
The creek under the little bridge has been known since the later 19th century as Kerosene Creek, due to the major shale-oil works which straddled it after 1865. Until the first timber bridge was built the creek was forded, even though the road was a well utilized thoroughfare.



Extract of 1883 map showing detail of construction

Professor Ian Jack, in his 2019 study, Kerosene Creek Bridge, Bells Line of Road, Hartley Vale, has established through extensive research that the bridge as we have known it with the sandstone abutments, was probably constructed between 1830 and 1840. Mapping does not clearly show the bridge until a surveyor's plan of 1883, although this indeed may not be the original bridge.

Mining companies first showed interest in shale mining at Hartley Vale from 1865, the Hartley Kerosene Oil and Paraffine Co. Ltd [HKOPC], and the Western Kerosene Oil Co. Ltd [WKOC]. Each company acquired land adjacent to Hartley Vale village and one or other of them would have carried out any work on the bridge which would render it able to carry the heavy vehicle transport which served the mines. In 1870 the WKOC built a horse drawn incline railway up to the Darling Causeway, to the Hartley Vale rail siding, which was able to largely replace road transport. A dray road in the vicinity of today's Browns Gap Road also came into use to access the Great Western Highway. The products were being sent to the refinery at Waterloo.



The shale mine entrance and incline

The bridge was therefore constructed by the community, without government assistance, by the private venture led by Darling, and over the coming years, regardless of its level of use, would have been maintained to a useable standard.

The Petrolea Vale retorts and refinery closed down in 1870 and for some seven years no processing was carried out there. Late in 1871 the two companies merged to form the New South Wales Shale and Oil Co., dominated by directors of the Western Kerosene Oil Co. The Waterloo refinery continued to process Hartley Vale shale. In 1877, however, new retorts were built in the valley to manufacture crude oil on the spot, as had been done from 1865 to 1870. By 1887 the refinery had been moved from Waterloo out to Hartley Vale, and a large brickworks was also established. As the works at Newnes further to the north became operational, Hartley Vale became redundant, and the plant shut down late in 1913, some of it, such as the kerosene-tin machinery, being re-erected at Newnes.



The bridge following restoration 2021

Although the little bridge across Kerosine Creek has lost its ambience and historical charm, the exercise has served to have research carried out on the history of the site, and the creek crossing is now safe, with portions of the early bridge being retained in situ for posterity.

Patsy Moppett

References:

Blue Mountains [News: Hartley](#) Vale Bridge Restoration Complete, 18th February 2021

www.lithgow-tourism.com/history/partb_2.htm

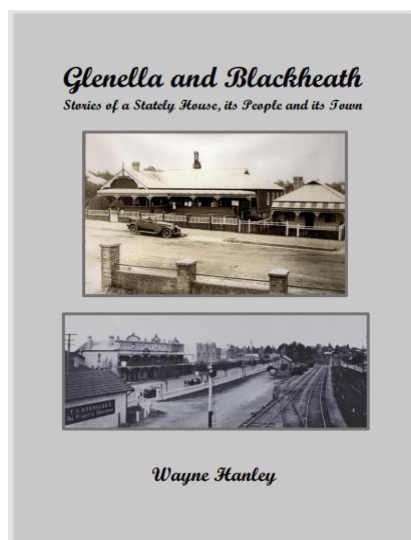
[Hartley](#) Vale Bridge Restoration Complete: Village Voice 19th February 2021

Kerosene Creek Bridge, Bells Line of Road, Hartley Vale: Ian Jack Heritage Consulting, March 2019

Site of oil-shale works, Hartley Vale: Inventory sheet, NSW Dept of Planning, Industry and Environment

Book Review: *Glenella and Blackheath*

By Wayne Hanley



Mr & Mrs Phillips of Glenella

When investigating and explaining social history, it is impossible to dissociate people from their places. What began as the seemingly straightforward task of establishing the history of *Glenella*, one of the more imposing of Blackheath's heritage guesthouses together with the Phillips family who created and operated it, quickly became a more comprehensive matter when Wayne Hanley, author of the recently published *Glenella and Blackheath* realised the real extent to which the history of the guesthouse was describing the life and times of Blackheath itself. Comprehensive research and a balance of fact and anecdote, have brought one of Blackheath's keynote buildings to life, establishing its prominence for the record and revealing the rather eclectic contributions of the family that made it so, helping us to understand a little more of what drove the evolution of one of our upper Blue Mountains settlements.

The book can be obtained for \$30.00 from Glenella or from the author. Each sale will provide a few dollars extra over production costs and all of this "profit" will be donated to the BMHS to enable further research into BM social history.

Email: wayne@hanley.ws

Phone: (02) 4787-5728

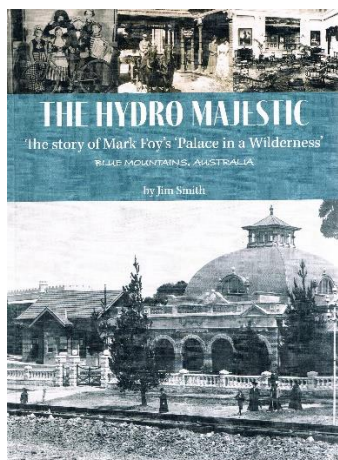
Mobile: 0400 316 689

Book Review: *The Hydro Majestic – The Story of Mark Foy's "Palace in a Wilderness"*

By Jim Smith

There is probably not another building in Australia which has as many curious stories and legends associated with it as the Hydro Majestic hotel at Medlow Bath in the Blue Mountains. Intended by its builder, Mark Foy, to be an antipodean health resort in the style of Smedley's hydropathic treatment centre in England, it instead became a venue for more hedonistic pleasures. In place of cold-water baths, strict dietary rules and "lights out at 10.30pm", guests often partied on into the small hours of the morning. The Hydro developed

a reputation as a place where people could lose their inhibitions, as well as discreetly meet their secret lovers. Some say that the “ghosts” of these past revellers can still be seen and heard in the hotel’s corridors.



Mark Foy built not only a quirky accommodation and entertainment complex but transformed over 1000ha of his surrounding land into a unique cultural landscape, the earliest Australian example of a self-contained resort, which included its own farm providing produce for the Hydro’s cuisine.

The Hydro Majestic is a great survivor. It was reborn in 1922, after half of the original buildings were destroyed, and again in 1942, after its conversion into an American military hospital. The hotel has been through bushfires, blizzards, economic depressions and periods of severe financial losses, including the bankruptcy of one of its lessees.

This book includes dozens of personal accounts by people who have stayed at the Hydro Majestic from its earliest years, and hundreds of photographs which document guests’ changing clothing fashions and social activities. The hotel’s evolving architecture, through the Art Nouveau and Art Deco periods to the present, is illustrated in detail.

Readers of this comprehensive history of Australia’s most unusual hotel will see the Hydro Majestic through new eyes.

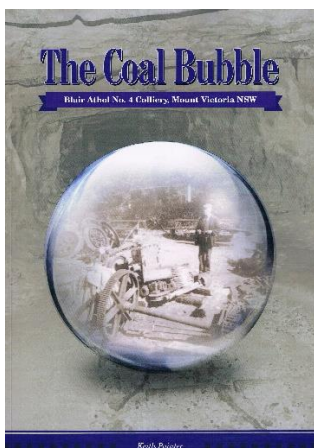
*The book is available for \$50.00 in Blue Mountains book shops, and from the author:
Jim Smith, 65 Fletcher Street, Wentworth Falls 2782*

Book Review: The Coal Bubble – Blair Athol No.4 Colliery, Mount Victoria

By Keith Painter

Tucked away in a gully a short distance from the village of Mount Victoria in the Blue Mountains of NSW there’s an almost century-old mine tunnel that is open to the public. In the vicinity of the tunnel is a sparse collection of relics from the mine’s heyday in the early 1920s. Known locally as the Blair Athol Mine, it was actually the *Blair Athol No. 4 Colliery*. The name came from its developer, the Blair Athol Coal and Timber Company which operated three mines on the fabulous Blair Athol coal field of central Queensland. The Coal Bubble reveals how a former Lithgow coalminer and his links to the Queensland Blair Athol company brought about this enterprise at Mount Victoria.

The author shows how the company spent a fortune driving the tunnel through hazards such as ironstone bands, rising water, unreliable electric power, and finally a shortage of capital and support from directors and shareholders. Read how Eli Deeley became a virtual millionaire, how Jack Roberts nearly lost his life, how John Hetherington’s visions for the Mount Victoria mine and an opencut at Blair Athol failed in his lifetime. After reading this epic story you could even visit the mine site!



The book is available for \$35.00 from book shops across the Blue Mountains, and from the author: Keith Painter at Mountain Mist Books, 53 Nelson Street, Raglan NSW 2795
Phone: 02 6337 3395 or 0447 186 390
Email greatguides@mountainmistbooks.com
Website <http://mountainmistbooks.com>

The curious accommodation businesses in Mrs Nicoll's villa "Dundee", Blackheath

George Wallace Nicoll, a wealthy middle-aged steam ship owner, started to invest in Blackheath in 1891 when he acquired part of Por. 269 at the northern end of Station Street¹, and he continued purchasing until 1905 the year before he died².

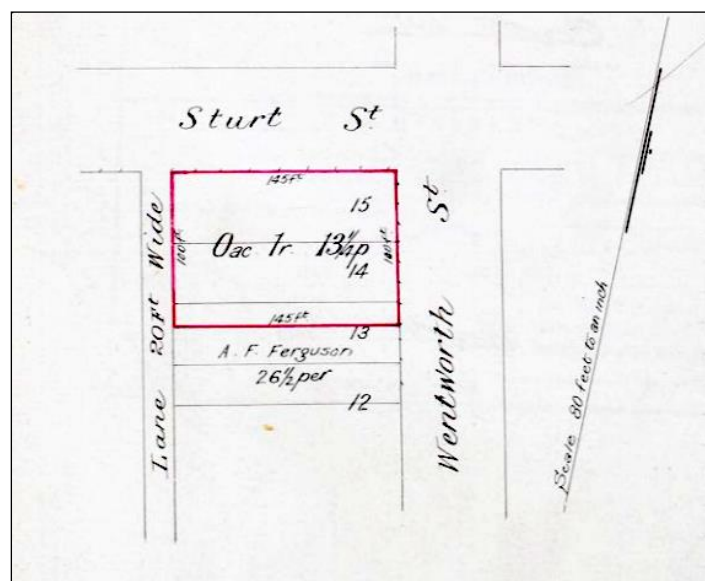


Figure 1: Plan in CoT (1904)⁴

Of significance to this account are Lots 14 & 15, Section 2, in Wentworth Street, Blackheath (**Figure 1**) which he purchased from Henry Beeson³ on 4 September 1903⁴. Eighteen months later, on 29 March 1905, Mrs Janet Constance Nicoll acquired that land from her husband complete with two 'villas' that were on those lots⁵ but when they had been built has not been established. After being widowed in 1906⁶ Janet re-married in 1908⁷ to Edmund E. O'Connor and paid rates using the name Mrs. E.E. O'Connor⁸ as was the custom of the day. She retained those lots until she died on 25 November 1932⁹ when they became part of the Janet Constance O'Connor Estate. On 5 May 1933 those lots were transferred to Edmund Eugene O'Connor (who died in 1953) and Bruce Randolph Maurice Nicoll (her son of the first marriage); they sold them separately in 1942¹⁰.

The 'villas' became known as *Brechin* (172 Wentworth Street) and *Dundee* (174 Wentworth Street alongside Sturt Street) - George Wallace Nicoll having been born in Dundee, Scotland. At times *Dundee* was operated as a guest house and when that business ceased the house was sold and the new owners renamed it *Peebles*¹¹. It is the sequence of advertised uses that is the curious feature of that building.

The Chudleighs

The Misses Chudleigh advertised accommodation in *Eversley* (166 Wentworth Street) from October 1911¹² until October 1912¹³. Then Clara & Susanna Chudleigh¹⁴ moved to *Dundee* and issued new advertisements from October 1912¹⁵ to December 1914¹⁶. They were never responsible for payment of the rates so they must have leased the premises. The ladies appear to have left at the end of 1914 shortly after their mother (Susan or Susanna or Sussanah Chudleigh) died aged 75 in early November 1914 at Ashfield¹⁷.

The spinsters were middle aged when catering for tourists and travellers at *Dundee*. Susanna Chudleigh was aged between 45 and 47 in those years having been born in 1867¹⁸; she died in 1927 aged 60¹⁹. Clara Jane Maud Chudleigh was born in 1875²⁰ so was aged between 37 and 39 when partnering her sister to run *Dundee*. In 1916²¹ Clara married Thomas Wyeth, but after marriage she did not return to the accommodation business; she died in April 1942 aged 67²².

Miss Denning i.e. Mary Ann Clara Denning (*alternative spelling*) - born 24 October 1861, died 6 July 1953 aged 91²³.

Holiday travel was much reduced during WWI and continued to be so for some years after the war. Following a six year hiatus, in 1920 *Dundee* was re-opened to provide accommodation, Miss Denning having leased the premises which she advertised from December 1920²⁴ until April 1923²⁵.

But then Miss Denning gave the impression that she had moved to *Warrawee*, Wentworth Street which was the accommodation that she advertised from September 1923²⁶ until December 1931²⁷.



Figure 2: Warrawee for sale²⁸

During that period Miss Denning offered *Warrawee* for sale in 1927²⁸ (**Figure 2**) and in so doing gave the impression of owning the premises. Seemingly the sale was not accomplished for she continued to advertise accommodation at *Warrawee* for another four years until December 1931²⁹.

So where was *Warrawee*? Accommodation in Blackheath at *Warrawee* is listed in the editions of the *Hotel, Guest-House and Tourist Guide in N.S.W.* for 1924-25, 1925-26 & 1932³⁰ - they all use the spelling 'Miss Denning' but fail to provide a street name so visitors with a booking might have been dependent on the local knowledge of a cab driver to get to their accommodation. However, on p.79 in the 1932 edition of that *Guide* there is the phone number 145 for *Warrawee* which NSW Telephone Directories (1926-1931) reveal was assigned to:

"Denning, M A C Miss Wentworth st 145"³¹

Those initials were deciphered in Electoral Rolls³² for 1925, 1926, 1928, 1930 & 1932 by entries

"Denning (*sic*), Mary Ann Clara Blackheath, Home Duties"

but neither a house name nor a street name was provided in the Electoral Rolls to indicate where she resided. Phone number 145 was not listed in the 1932 Telephone Directory despite it being printed in the 1932 Hotel Guide (which was slow in being published) but in 1933 Telephone Directory it was shown as having been allocated to a resident in Hat Hill Road.

All bar one of the cited sources have indicated that *Warrawee* was in Wentworth Street and not in Hat Hill Road as one has contended³³.

In that same post WWI era (1920-1931) there was a second accommodation business in Blackheath called *Dundee* that by advertising so frequently gave the impression that it was thriving. Being opposite the Railway Station at 140 Station Street it was more advantageously located to 'capture' train travellers than its namesake in Wentworth Street. So, it is both possible, and likely, that Miss Denning was not getting as many guests as she hoped and maybe she concluded that it was because some who booked to stay at her *Dundee* went to the more handy premises closer to the Railway Station. Thus, Miss Denning seems to have stayed in the same building in Wentworth Street but renamed the business *Warrawee* in order to avoid confusing potential customers.

A puzzling resident

The owner of *Dundee*, Mrs. Janet O'Connor, had a widowed daughter-in-law Grace Nicoll who is listed in the 1928 Electoral Roll as residing in *Dundee*³⁴ but she is only named in that one issue. That residential information would have been submitted to the Electoral Commission in the last half of 1927 not long after *Warrawee* went on sale³⁵, yet it continued to be advertised as a boarding house³⁶. So, it seems unlikely that Grace Nicoll held a caretaker position in that building but puzzling, and what would have been her living arrangements within a functioning accommodation business albeit called *Warrawee*.

Inheritance

On the death of Janet Constance O'Connor (formerly Nicoll) on 25 November 1932³⁷ *Dundee* was transferred to her second husband Edmund Eugene O'Connor and Bruce Nicoll (her third son of her first marriage to George Walter Nicoll)³⁸ and they held it until 1942. But it was not re-opened as a guest house in that decade (1932-1942) nor subsequently.

Peter C. Rickwood

Note: References are provided in separate attachment.

PLEASE NOTE THE CLOSING DATE FOR ARTICLES AND NOTIFICATIONS TO THE EDITOR FOR THE JULY-AUGUST 2021 ISSUE OF HERITAGE IS 25th JUNE 2021

Community events & updates

Volunteer of the Year Awards 2021

Nominations are now open for the 2021 NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards! In 2020, The Centre for Volunteering was pleased to acknowledge the volunteering efforts of over 118,000 volunteers. This year they hope to recognise even more. Help acknowledge volunteers' hard work by nominating those who enrich your local community.



The Centre for Volunteering would love it if the community could help spread the message across the volunteering sector by nominating volunteers and encouraging individuals and the organisations they are involved with to nominate in the 2021 Awards. Help acknowledge volunteers' hard work by nominating those who enrich your local community. They have a number of resources available on their website to download. Please take the time to share the word across your networks about the awards and the opportunity to give volunteers the recognition they deserve.

The NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards have grown to become one of the largest celebrations of volunteering across the country. The Awards are now in their 15th year and celebrate the efforts of the State's volunteers across seven different award categories. More than 3,000 special guests, families and friends attend ceremonies at 25 locations across regional and suburban centres to celebrate the regional winners of the volunteer awards. Finalists are invited to the Gala State Ceremony in Sydney to announce the final winners and overall NSW Volunteer of the Year. Many people from over 500 organisations were recognised with awards and certificates at last year's awards, with special messages of support received from the Prime Minister and the NSW Premier.

The generosity of their Principal Award Partners, ClubsNSW and the Department of Communities and Justice, and their Award supporters, Mint Awards and Thrifty, allows them to continue to highlight the vital role volunteers play in our communities and the wonderful contribution of so many organisations across NSW.

Award Categories:

- Young Volunteer of the Year
- Adult Volunteer of the Year
- Senior Volunteer of the Year
- Volunteer Team of the Year
- Corporate Volunteer of the Year (Individual)
- Corporate Volunteer Team of the Year
- Excellence in Volunteer Management

Nominations close 5pm Friday 9th July 2021.

For any enquiries and bulk nominations (more than 20), please contact the Awards team at award@volunteering.com.au

Phone: 02 9261 3600

Mailing address: The Centre for Volunteering Level 3, 40 Gloucester Street Sydney, NSW 2000 Australia

Exhibition: Uncovered: The Archaeology of Thompson Square

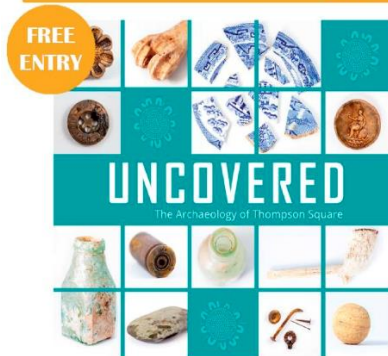
On display at Hawkesbury Regional Museum from March 2021 - the remarkable objects in this exhibition range from Aboriginal stone artefacts, such as tools for hunting and fishing, to maritime objects such as sailor's pipes, as well as every day, discarded items of colonial life, including china and glass bottles, coins, buttons and jewellery. Also included in this new exhibition are sections of the brick drainage system dating to 1814-1816 and a digital recreation of a colonial carvel-built vessel, based on some of the earliest timber boat remains found in Australia.

Free entry to Hawkesbury Regional Museum: 8 Baker Street, Windsor.

Open 6 Days 10am to 4pm (Closed Tuesdays. Open Public Holidays (Except Good Friday, Christmas and Boxing Day)

Ph: 02 4560 4655

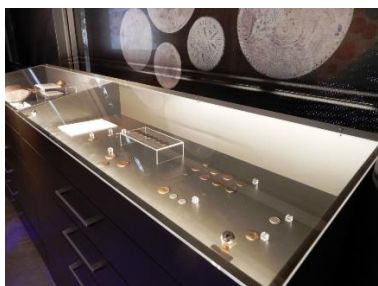
Email: museum@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au



UNCOVERED during archaeological excavations between 2016-2020, are over 30,000 artefacts ranging from Aboriginal tools for hunting and fishing, to maritime objects and discarded items of colonial life, revealing more than 27,000 years of human history.



Thompson's Square Interpretive Signage



Numerous coins



Selection of bricks



BMACHO inspect the exhibition

Exhibition: Exhibition Pagoda

This exciting exhibition at the Gang Gang Gallery, Lithgow, will focus attention on the amazing unique geomorphology and the biodiversity of native vegetation in the Pagoda country north of Lithgow, which the Destination Pagodas Alliance (DPA) has proposed for protection as a State Conservation Area. The principal work in the exhibition is a large installation work by the acclaimed artist **Professor Anne Graham**, a work entitled *Gardens of Stone* inspired by the Pagoda country.



In addition to the principal work, there will be other works focusing on birdlife, and rare and unusual biodiverse native vegetation and landscapes of the Pagoda Country, with a series of video works testifying to the magnificence of this remarkable landscape. Part of the objective is to make clear the potential of the Destination Pagodas proposal to both enhance the

attraction of the Greater Blue Mountains as a global tourist destination and also to add significant value to Lithgow, a town in transition, with ensuring an economically sustainable tourism economy into the future.

The Exhibition will extend from April 29th to June 20, with the official opening being on Saturday 1st May 2021.

It should be noted that due to COVID-19, NSW government restrictions may apply.

Location: Gang Gang Gallery, 206 Main Street, Lithgow.

Email: ninfo@gggallery.com.au

Mobile: 0408 514 440

Pagoda Journey Forum 15th May 2021 10.30am- 2.30pm

Exhibition Pagoda at the Gang Gang Gallery in Lithgow provides a focus on the Western Blue Mountain's iconic Pagoda Country - the 'Pagoda Journey Forum' is being held at the Gallery as part of this exhibition. The forum will provide an opportunity to hear of the treasures tucked away in the country earmarked for protection under the Destination Pagodas proposal¹. It will provide insight into the unique landscape, the amazing range of flora within it, the efforts that have been made to protect it to date and the potential for the regional economy that the Destination Pagodas proposal provides. As a highlight in the forum you will hear a conversation between a curator and two acclaimed artists relating to the inspiration they derive from landscape, an insight into the visceral response we all feel when connecting to wild beauty. The Destination Pagodas' State Conservation Zone proposal will effectively create a park under which legacy mining activity will continue. At the same time new age energy initiatives are appearing in the region whilst traditional power generators continue their operation, all part of a transition.



The Forum will close with a reflection on this transition, a presentation on renewable energy and what is happening locally - The Lithgow Community Power Project.

- Reflections on wildness: Some thoughts on wilderness and wildness as contributors to human well being: Dr Paul Brown.
- Reflections on the Past: A summation of where we have been and where we are going: Dr Richard Stiles.
- Reflections on Country: A conversation between artists on their spiritual response to landscape: Anne Graham, Cindy Yuen-Zhe Chen and Nic Tsoutas.
- Reflections on Potential: An insight into the economic potential of Destination Pagodas: Dr Haydn Washington.
- Reflections on the Journey: The journey: Milo Dunphy Colo Committee Haydn Washington: Madi McLean
- Reflections on a Future: The Lithgow Community Power Project: Greg Mortimer OAM.

The Forum will commence with morning tea at 10.30 with formal proceedings at 11am. Light lunch will be served for which attendees will be asked to make a donation of \$15. Bookings essential- go to:

https://www.stickytickets.com.au/ZGRVT_1

https://www.gardensofstone.org.au/files/Blog/final_destination_pagoda-300319_web.pdf

Congratulations to the following Committees for 2021, as the community seeks to catch up with AGMs previously held in obedience through the COVID situation:

Annual General Meeting – Springwood Historical Society

Friday 19th February 2021, at Springwood Presbyterian Church hall, Springwood

Office Bearers:

- President: Peter Chinn
- Vice President: Doug Knowles
- Secretary: Dick Morony
- Treasurer: Sara Matthews
- Research Officer: Peter Chinn
- Assistant Research Officer: Nerida Russell
- Bulletin Editor: Dick Morony
- Publications Officer: Peter Chinn
- Auditor: Amanda Blanche

It was agreed that other offices would be left vacant temporarily and filled as required.

Annual General Meeting – National Trust (Blue Mountains Branch)

Saturday 13th March 2021, at Everglades House & Gardens, Leura

Office Bearers:

- Chairman: Rod Stowe
- Vice Chairman: Robert Clark
- Secretary: Barrie Tippins
- Treasurer: Michael Anstiss
- Committee Member: Grant Holmes
- Committee Member: Rhona Leach (Functions)
- Committee Member: Elizabeth van Reyswoud
- Committee Member: Sue Northey (Newsletter Editor)
- Committee Member: Norma Clarke
- Committee Member: Elizabeth Stowe
- Committee Member: Sarah Wray

Annual General Meeting – Blue Mountains Association of Cultural and Heritage Organisations (BMACHO)

Saturday 20th March 2021, at Hobby's Reach, Wentworth Falls

Office Bearers:

- President: Rod Stowe
- Vice President: Patsy Moppett
- Secretary: Fiona Burn
- Treasurer: Phil Hammon
- Committee: Jan Koperberg, Roy Bennett, Suzanne Smith, Dick Morony, Summar Hipworth

Annual General Meeting – Blue Mountains Historical Society

Saturday 10th April 2021, at Hobby's Reach, Wentworth Falls

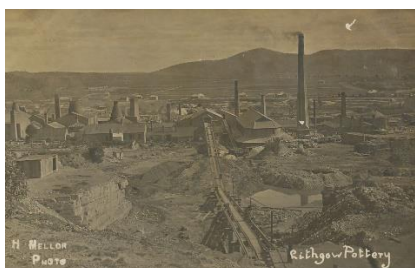
Office Bearers:

- President: Fiona Burn
- Vice President #1: Michael Mahoney
- Vice President #2: Robyne Ridge
- Honorary Secretary: Stephen Davis
- Treasurer: Ross Ingram
- Committee: John Hill, Eric Halbert, Heather Knight

BMACHO Conference 2021: Industrial Heritage

Plans are well under way for the 2021 Conference, “*Industrial Heritage*”. The Conference will be held on **Saturday 8th May 2021**, at the Lithgow Workman’s Club, Lithgow.

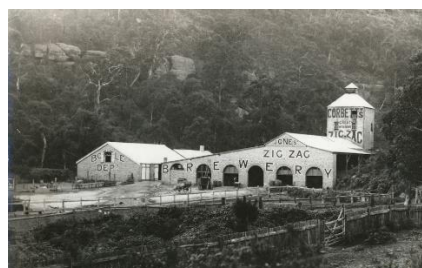
Speakers have been confirmed, with a couple of last minute changes, and the Committee is quite excited about the quality of presentations that are coming together. The keynote address will be by Ray Christison, Chair of Museums & Galleries NSW.



Lithgow Pottery



Coerwul rail viaducts



Zig Zag Brewery

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

In the romance of celebrating industrial heritage, it must be remembered that when these industries were actually occurring, it wasn’t pretty! So, we will also be reminded of scars it created on our landscape, and the environmental consequences of that industry.

Numbers are now full. Accommodation for those attending is available at the Club and within Lithgow and Mount Victoria. Train access takes you to within walking distance of the venue. Trade tables will be available.

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

Attendees will note that there will be an opportunity to visit the popular LithGLOW event at Lithgow on the Saturday night. See the Lithgow City Council website. When they visit the website, they may find that the event is booked out and they won’t be able to enter Blast Furnace Park. However, from other vantage points in Lithgow they will be able to see the largest pyrotechnic display ever seen in Lithgow.

Patsy Moppett

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 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; Gang Gang Gallery, Lithgow; Glenbrook & District Historical Society Inc; 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 2021-2022 (from March 2021) 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, Roy Bennett.

Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail sub-committee: Fiona Burn, Jan Koperberg, Suzanne Smith.

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

Disclaimer: views and opinions expressed in Heritage originate from many sources and contributors. Every effort is taken to ensure accuracy of material. Content does not necessarily represent or reflect the views and opinions of BMACHO, its committee or its members. If errors are found feedback is most welcome.