

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 Green, Executioner NSW 1828 -1855

Alexander Green was sentenced to transportation for the term of his natural life in 1824 for the theft of "brown stuff" from a shop.

Born in 1802 in the Netherlands to a circus performer, he was recorded as a tumbler by trade. He arrived in Sydney on the *Countess of Harcourt* aged 22 years of age. He was described as: *Height: 5 ft 4½ ins; Complexion: Pale, pitted; Hair: Flax; Eyes: Lt Blue*. He was not particularly attractive, having pockmarked skin and stumps for teeth, and was of simple mind.

After a year he obtained a conditional pardon in May 1825, probably because he turned police informer. However, he was found guilty of bearing false witness in court and his services were no longer required in this capacity. Green continued to get into trouble with the law after his appointment as assistant executioner. He faced court on numerous petty charges throughout his life but was always treated leniently because the job of hangman was unpopular, and it would be difficult to replace him.



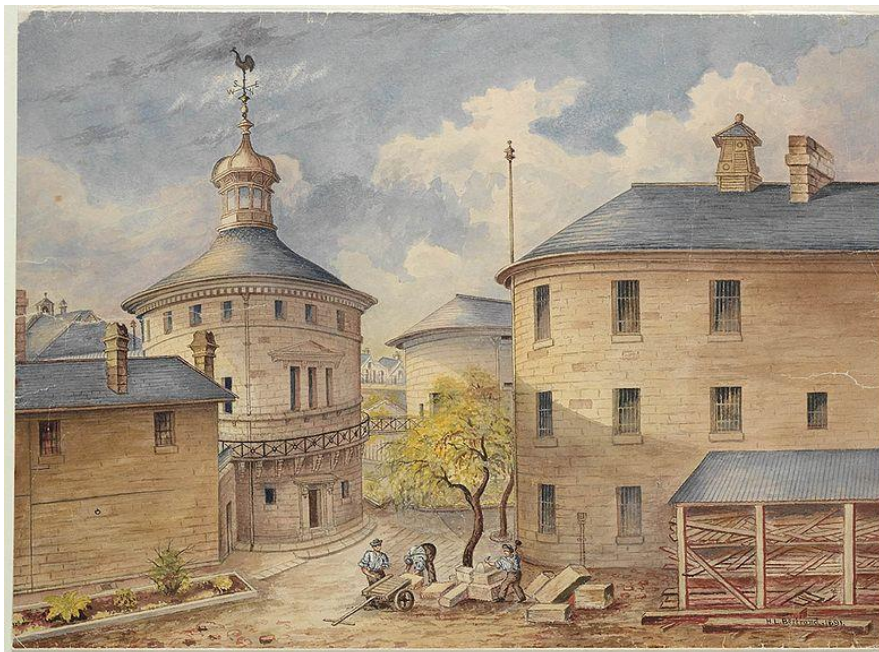
Hangings in the colony

Lodged in Hyde Park barracks, Green was assigned briefly to William Hutchinson, then Samuel Marsden. He worked intermittently as an official scourger at the barracks and Sydney gaol, and as a labourer and honorary constable at Port Stephens. He became understudy to Harry Stain, the official hangman, and after Stain died in 1828 Green took on the role of Official Government Executioner for NSW. On 26th January 1831, his original sentence having been commuted to seven years, he became free.

When Sydney gaol opened in 1841 Alexander Green lived for a time in a whitewashed hut outside the eastern wall. He would leave his house to the jeers and catcalls of the gathering crowd, enter the prison and do his job. However, the hut was burnt to the ground in 1842 and Green moved back into the gaol.

Hangings were open to public viewing over several decades, and people would gather at the front gate of the gaol in Forbes Street, where the condemned would be brought out on a platform built above the gaol gate.

The heritage-listed gaol building was designed by NSW Colonial Architect Mortimer Lewis. Construction commenced with pegging out by Francis Greenway in 1821. The gaol wall began in 1822 and was finished in 1824 using convict labour, but due to a lack of funds, the site sat empty for 12 years. Construction of the rest of the complex did not begin until 1836, with completion of some of the cell blocks in 1840. The gaol was ready for occupation a year later, with the first prisoners occupying the gaol on 7th June 1841. The gaol was finally completed in 1885 and closed in 1914. It has subsequently been repurposed to house the National Art School.



Darlinghurst Gaol by inmate Henry Louis Bertrand, 1891

During his career as hangman Green was credited with 490 executions between 1828 and 1855 in the colony of New South Wales, which included Sydney, Moreton Bay penal settlement and Brisbane. Under Governor Darling he hanged 170 people in 3 years 10 months, under Governor Bourke he hanged 183 in 6 years. Under Governor Gipps it was 10 in 8 years, and under Governor FitzRoy it was 27 in 8 years 6 months.

Despite several 'botched' executions, Green appears to have been a competent hangman. He was strong, and skilled with ropes and mechanical drops and at assessing his victims. Notwithstanding occasional reports that prisoners *died hard*, or that Green swaggered and strutted, most executions went off routinely.

He had several minor brushes with the law, some of which involved incidents with women, but apparently, he never married. He was instantly recognizable, having a livid scar down the side of his face, the result of an axe attack by a prisoner in December 1830. He did try to hang himself when his attentions towards a woman were scorned but was cut down before he was able to expire.

From the mid-1840s Alexander Green was in growing disfavour with the authorities for intoxication, insolence and mental instability. In early May 1855 the colonial secretary (Sir) Edward Deas Thomson ordered him committed to the Tarban Creek Lunatic Asylum

(Gladesville) and he remained there until his death in 1879, as a cleaner of the male dormitory. Nothing further is known about Green as the relevant records are missing.



Gates of the Gaol – National Art School



Green Park

There has been conjecture as to whether Green Park in Darlinghurst was named after Alexander Green, given it is near the site of his old hut. In the 1860s, the site where Green Park sits now, was set aside for *accommodation for aged and infirm females*, however, these plans fell through, and the site was then given to the City Council in 1875 for a *public recreation ground*.

Green Park was in fact named after City Council member Alderman James Green, who represented the district from 1869 to 1883. He was a painter and glazier originally from Cornwall and was known to sport a rather impressive beard. *Patsy Moppett*

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A Park Bearing the Name Of A Convict Who Lived There: Tripadvisor September 2017

History of Green Park: City of Sydney

Bedlam at Botany Bay: James Dunk 2019

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Food for thought Editor's note

As 2021 comes to a close we wonder how we made it through and what lies in store for us all in 2022. The virus is not done with the community as yet.

This edition of *Heritage* does provide some grim but interesting reading regarding an executioner and a murder, not necessarily a positive start to the year! However, there are some great books around to track down, two recent releases regarding Collits' Inn and Muggi Murum-ban being the standouts.

Some exciting news for the Woodford community is the reprieve given to the railway footbridge which has been withdrawn from the demolition proposal by Sydney Trains. There are heritage grants opening up too, so it is to be hoped that some of these are suitable for members to take advantage of for future works.

Annual General Meetings have been held and new committees formed to lead those groups forward, and the BMACHO conference is now in its early planning stages for 2023.

The National Trust's Australian Heritage Festival is set for the weeks April 1st through to May 31st 2022. This will be an opportunity for the community to stage events and exhibitions to celebrate history across the State. The theme this year is *Curiosity*.

Many other groups will hold celebrations and functions to showcase their local history, so stay in touch with social media to keep abreast of these.

Notwithstanding future Covid restrictions, it is hoped that the community will be able to utilise their activities to bring a positive note to 2022. It is hoped that this will include documenting how the Covid situation affected their group/s.

The 1918-1919 pandemic is a part of our history, and the Covid-19 pandemic will also become an element of the same. With the onset of Covid-19 we did look back at 1918-1919 to remind ourselves how such a disaster affected our communities. Now we have an opportunity to record for future generations the current situation, and to provide lessons from which our children, grandchildren and great grand children can learn. Having said that, it is hoped they will never have to deal with such a traumatic event again.

A happy and healthy 2022 New Year to all!

Murder or Misadventure: The Death of William Townsend: Part 1 **Introduction**

In October 1848, the body of William Townsend was discovered in the vicinity of the Fish River at Diamond Swamp near Locksley in western New South Wales. The coroner's jury returned a verdict of *Found Dead* and, as ridiculous as this may sound, at its core is the acknowledgement that they did not have the information or knowledge to conclusively decide what caused William's death. The jury's open verdict was enough for alternate theories to develop, such as the one passed down to me, to explain what the jury could not.

Despite the endless hours that I and many others have spent combing through the various sources, none has been found which explains the riddle as to the cause of William's death. It is hoped that the following exploration serves as a jumping-off point for others to continue the search.

Location

A short drive up from the O'Connell Hotel on Beaconsfield Road, O'Connell is St. Thomas's Anglican Church and Cemetery. Surrounded by family groups such as the Duracks, William Townsend's grave stands isolated, a long way from his family and his Kurrajong home. Questions of why and how he came to be buried here have puzzled family members for close to 175 years.



Map 1: Google map showing the relational locations of Kinghorne's Mill, O'Connell and Bathurst. Source: G. Townsend, Google Earth, 9.10.2021

Oral Tradition

William Townsend is my three-times great grandfather and according to the story passed down through the family, my branch (Thomas Townsend) at least, William was murdered by Aborigines on his way back from a court case in Bathurst. When his body was found, his clothes and horse were located only a short distance away, the horse having eaten a substantial amount of foliage in the area. The body was naked and displayed no external wounds.

What the newspapers said

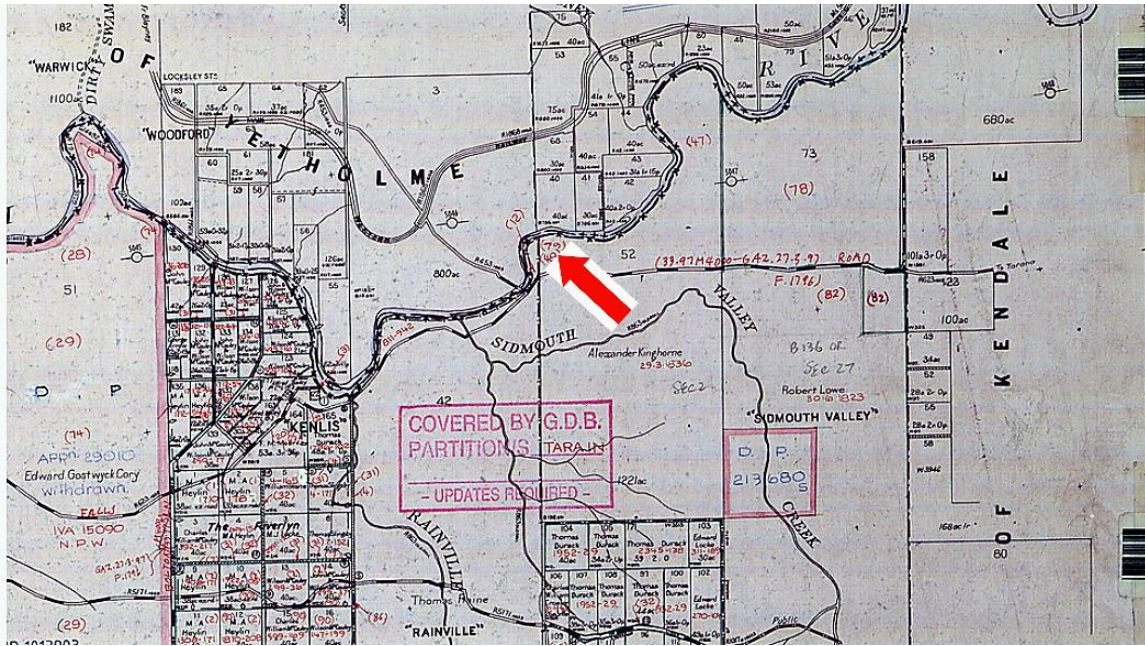
With very few of the official documents having survived the test of time, curtailing attempts to solve this mystery, I am grateful that the newspapers of the day were full of juicy gossip from around the country, helping fill in the gaps that the missing documents have left.

The initial piece of information about William's disappearance was reported in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 11 October 1848, in the form of a missing persons notice. It read:

*LOST, in the bush at Diamond Swamp within twenty miles of Bathurst, on the 25th of September, William Townsend, of Kurrajong, was seen on the same day going in the direction of O'Connell's Plains. He was riding an entire bay horse, branded JJ on both shoulders, and J on the neck, star in forehead. He had two saddles, blankets, and had no hat, he wore a tweed coat and trousers. Any person giving any intelligence to lead to his discovery, or any person finding the horse, and sending details to Mrs. Townsend, Kurrajong near Richmond, will be handsomely rewarded.
Kurrajong, October 10*

On 4 November, the *Bathurst Advocate* published a report on the inquest into a body discovered in the vicinity of the Fish River.

*INQUEST, - On Saturday last (28 October), an inquest was held in the neighbourhood of the Fish River, on the body of a man who had been found dead in the bush, it was identified as a man named Townsend, living near the Kurryjong (sic); he had been missing nearly a month when his body was found, the horse was feeding near him, but minus the saddles, and the man was destitute of all clothing, except his shirt.
Verdict, found dead.*



Map 2: Arrow pointing to the possible location of Kinghorne's Mill at the junction of the land owned by Thomas Raine and Alexander Kinghorne Jr in the Diamond Swamp and Sidmouth Valley regions. Source: Map of Bolton Parish, County Westmoreland, NSW Land Titles Office, 1965 1st Ed

The *Sydney Morning Herald* also published an article on the inquest and provided additional information relating to William's disappearance and the discovery of his body.

Coroner's Inquest - One was held on 28th October, at the Fish River, on the body of a man named Townshend, found dead near Kinghorn's Mill. It appeared that more than a month since, the deceased, with his son, were riding in the neighbourhood of the Fish River, when the former's hat was blown off, when he exclaimed "there is Castles, the constable, who would "sell his own father for a shilling", he set spurs in his horse and rode off at a furious pace towards the bush; the son stopped to pick up the hat and then rode after his father, but after a search of many hours he could not find him; he then returned home, and it was nearly a month after before the body was discovered, then in a perfect state of nudity; when found the body of the deceased was in a dreadfully mutilated state, the flesh having been apparently gnawed off by native dogs, and the body black from exposure in the weather.

Verdict, found dead.

In the paragraph which followed, several other pieces of evidence were offered including a very unexpected surprise.

It was generally supposed by the family of the deceased that he had been seized with a fit of temporary insanity, and whilst labouring under it had divested himself of his clothing, had rolled down a creek bank where his body was found; and rather singular, the horse he had been riding was found within a short distance of the body, and from the appearance of the herbage around it was clear the animal had kept in close proximity to the deceased from the time of death until the body was discovered; the wearing apparel was found within a short distance of the body.

Diamond Swamp, the son and Constable Castles

At this point it would be worth establishing why William was in Diamond Swamp and which of his sons was with him. In this case, it can be revealed that the oral history is correct that William was returning from Bathurst after attending the court case involving one of his sons, John Townsend. The story of how and why John ended up in front of the court is a story for another time. However, it is worth briefly explaining for the purpose of establishing why

William was so far from home - Kurrajong Hills being approximately 78 miles/126 kms from Bathurst.



Map 3: Google Earth image showing the likely location of Kinghorne's Mill (centre white pin) corresponding to the North-East corner of Raine's grant bordering the Fish River and Alexander Kinghorne's property. The road marked to the west of the pin is Kinghorne Falls Road and Mutton Falls Road to the south-east. Note the creek situated almost north of the Mill site. Source: G. Townsend, Google Earth, 10 September 2021

In short, John and his twin, George, were the eldest surviving sons of William Townsend and his wife, Rebecca Sunderland, born at Mulgoa in October 1822. John had left the family's farm at Kurrajong and established himself outside Bathurst, in or around 1844. In March 1848, a warrant was issued for his arrest for the theft of a bullock belonging to Alexander Fleming. After surrendering himself, John was bailed to appear before the court the following September. Before the Chief Justice of New South Wales, John was acquitted of the charge and released. It is important to acknowledge that the Court was sitting at the Bathurst Hotel, not at the Bathurst Courthouse.

Neither the date nor the trial witnesses are inconsequential to this story. John's trial took place on 25 September 1848, and amongst those to give evidence to the court was Charles Castles, constable for the Diamond Swamp region. In his evidence, Castles told the court that he, along with several others, had seen the stolen bullock in John's possession in March that year. It is easy to see why William was so quick to lash out at Castles on the day he disappeared.

"A Fit of Temporary Insanity"

The statement quoting a family member, most likely John, as saying that he thought that his father

... had been seized with a fit of temporary insanity, and whilst labouring under it had divested himself of his clothing, had rolled down a creek bank where his body was found; ...

was a revelation just too good to ignore.

Using my limited 21st century knowledge of a handful of psychological conditions, my first thought was that William had a long standing neurological or psychological condition such as epilepsy, bipolar disorder or even a brain tumour, which they believed had led directly to his death. How wrong could I be?

Cate Gilchrist and James Dunk, who have both written extensively about the intersection of death and mental health in colonial Sydney, indicate that the phrase "*a fit of temporary insanity*" was used to explain the act of suicide by seemingly rational people. The reason behind this is linked to another phrase common at the time, *felo de se*, otherwise called 'felon of themselves' or self-murder. During this period, a coroner's verdict of the latter had serious social, economic and religious consequences for the deceased and their families.

Families of the deceased would not only suffer the social ignominy of the act by their loved one but could also suffer the possible loss of the person's assets, particularly land and personal wealth to the Crown. Until 1823, these people were buried without Christian rites, at a crossroad, face down with a stake through their heart. After this date, the deceased had to be buried in a churchyard or community cemetery, but the church was not required to provide them with a Christian burial. It became common for these burials to occur between 9pm and midnight.

In a community in which a person's social standing, wealth and the influence of the Christian churches were the bedrock of the society, a verdict of *felo de se* could be catastrophic for the surviving members of the family. These laws remained on the statutes in New South Wales until as late as January 1862 when the *Felo de se Amendment Act* was passed by the New South Wales Parliament.













At this time, it was commonly held that a person must be insane to want to kill themselves. One method of subverting such affects involved juries delivering a verdict of *non-compos mentis*, that is: the person had killed themselves whilst insane (temporarily, at least), thereby protecting the individual and their family from the ramifications of the Act.

As a matter of interest, Dunk recounts a study which found that temporary insanity verdicts in Ireland during the 1840s were more frequently provided to those in the upper classes, with their actual state of sanity being of secondary concern to the need to ensure the inheritance of the family's estate and/or fortune by the heirs.

At the end of the day, what was the purpose of suggesting 'temporary insanity' to the jury? At this point it would be worth summarising what we know.

Evidence summary and chronology

From the information contained in the newspaper reports we can include with a fair degree of confidence the following as evidence:

-   William went missing on 25 September 1848 near the Fish River in the Diamond Swamp region (east of Bathurst), whilst riding with his son, John, most likely towards John's residence.
 -   On 11 October, a missing persons notice was published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* providing the location William was last seen, the direction he was heading, a description of his horse and clothes, whilst offering a substantial reward for information. The contact person being his wife, Rebecca (nee Sunderland).
 -   William's body was located at the bottom of the creek bank leading to the Fish River, close to Kinghorne's Mill, devoid of clothing and in a blackened state of decay. Marks associated with post-mortem animal attacks were also found. His clothes and horse were found nearby.
 -   The Coroner's Inquest was held on 28 October at the site where the body was found or not far from it.
 -   We are not aware of who was on the jury, who found the body or who the witnesses were, although we can deduce that John Townsend was certainly one, as would be the person who found the body, if it wasn't John. A police officer, likely Charles Castles, would also have been summoned, as would one of the Bathurst doctors who acted as the pathologist.
- In terms of the latter, whilst there were several doctors in Bathurst at the time who acted in this role to the coroner's court before this date, Drs George Busby and Richard Machattie were the most frequent. The Coroner for Bathurst at the time was John Sutherland, who, prior to immigrating to New South Wales had previously served as a Captain in both the 3rd Buffs Regiment and the Portuguese Army and had commanded a company of Portuguese Infantry during the Napoleonic Wars.
-   The inquest was told:
 - On the way home, William and John encountered Constable Castles, of whom it appears William, at least, did not hold in any regard, informing Castles that he thought he would "*sell his own father for a shilling*". After this, William urged his horse onward in the direction of the O'Connell Plains, losing his hat in the process.

- John stopped to pick up his father's hat, and in doing so lost sight of him. Despite searching for several hours, John returned home without his father.
- Just under a month later, William's body was discovered (most likely on either 23 October or 24 October), on the waterline of a creek leading into the Fish River, not far from Kinghorn's Mill. Most likely the body was hidden by scrub and brush.
- When discovered, the body was black (decomposed), naked, and showing signs of severe mutilation following animal attacks.
- William's horse had remained close to the body, having eaten a large amount of the vegetation during that time. His clothes were similarly found close by.



After the inquest William's body was released to his family and was buried at the O'Connell Church of England Cemetery, known today as St. Thomas's Anglican Cemetery, by the Rev. Thomas Sharpe. Rev. Sharpe was previously attached to St. Peter's Church of England at Richmond before moving to Bathurst, although he was predominantly based in and around Wisemans Ferry.



The date of death is listed as 19 September 1847, suggests that the headstone was installed quite some time after William's death and wasn't checked as the date and year inscribed are both wrong. (I believe it to be 25 September 1848. How that affects calculations of his age will be considered at a later time).

Glenn Townsend

See the next issue of **Heritage** for **Part 2: The Analysis!**

Note 1: The bibliography is listed in a separate document issued with this Newsletter.

Note 2: The article with footnotes is available from the Editor upon request if required.

Maryland, Bringelly

In May 2021 it was announced by the NSW government that the historic south west Sydney property *Maryland* will be listed on the State Heritage Register. The historic homestead, cottages, stables and coach house will continue to be preserved for future generations as a result of the heritage listing. The complex includes two gatehouses, winery buildings, store building, several dairy buildings, a hay barn and many minor structures. The winery and store may be the oldest surviving winery buildings in Australia. Eighty-six acres of curtilage will also be preserved under the State Heritage listing.

The potential for archaeological remains also exists and is likely to include material associated with domestic occupation by the Barker and Thomson families, their household staff/servants, the workers and their families, notably those of German heritage, the nature and use of the winery and farm buildings and the landscaping of the garden and extensive remnant vineyard fields.



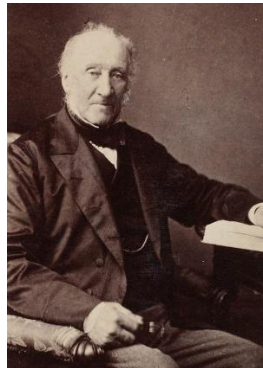
Maryland, formerly Nonorrah

Maryland, located on the Northern Road near Bringelly, is the remaining part of the original land grant to John Dickson in 1815. He had named the 3000 acre property *Nonorrah*, it being one of many properties he owned by 1928. His property was second only in area to

that granted to John Blaxland (6710 acres). John Dickson was a prominent Scottish engineer who arrived in Australia in 1813 from England with patents for steam engines, pumps and other hydraulic machines. In the colony Dickson was successful in engineering and pastoral pursuits, as well as a merchant. From an alliance with his housekeeper, Susannah Martin, Dickson had three sons and four daughters. He was prosecuted for forgery in 1834 and absconded to England while on bail, where he died in 1843. Dickson had begun selling off his properties in 1833, with *Nonorrah* being sold in the late 1830s to his apprentice, engineer, businessman and philanthropist Thomas Barker. Dickson gave his properties over to friends, including Barker, to dispose of for him before he returned to England. The property was subdivided into smaller allotments to encourage buyers.



Stables and coach house



Thomas Barker Snr



Winery

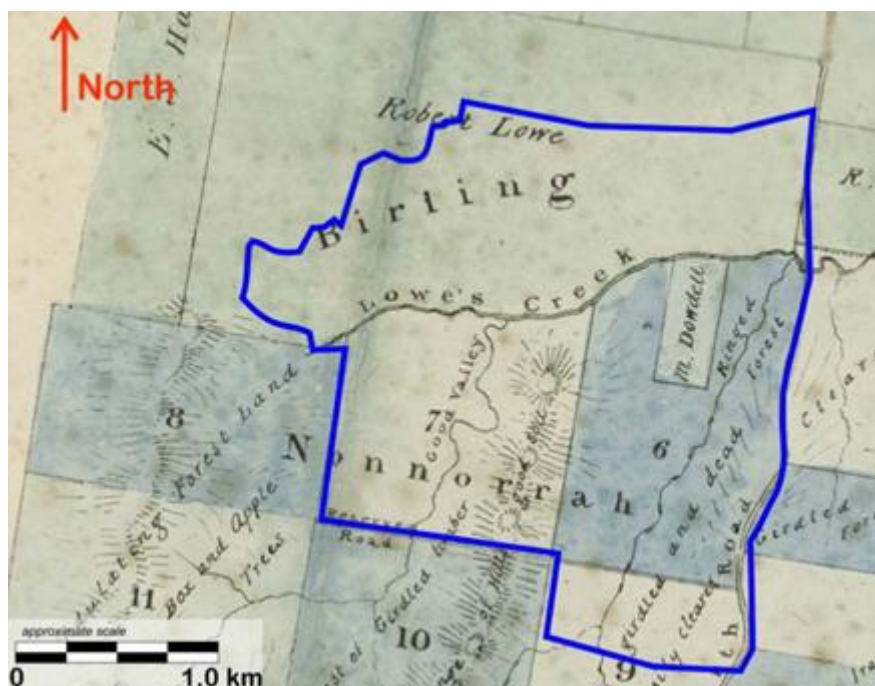
Barker had been articled to Dickson, accompanying him to Australia in 1813. He had also married Dickson's niece Joanna, but she died about 1851 and he remarried in 1857 to Katherine Heath Grey. He retained the main homestead blocks of *Nonorrah*, and renamed the property *Maryland*, living there till his death in 1875. Barker was also managing Dickson's nearby *Orielton* at Narellan at this time.

Barker was regarded as a highly skilled engineer and millwright. With his partner John Smith, he erected two windmills near Elizabeth Point in Sydney in 1826 on a grant he obtained there. Ten years later he built his house *Roslyn Hall* on another grant of 16 acres of land nearby. In 1828 Barker purchased Cooper and Levey's steam flour mill next door to his Sussex Street house. The following year he purchased additional land to the west of his town properties, and in 1831 he consolidated his freehold and leases there in a grant of more than 8 acres.

Barker earned a reputation for his honesty and reliability in business matters and became a respected figure in public affairs. He was one of the first to promote railways in New South Wales, becoming an honorary commissioner of railways after the New South Wales government assumed control in 1855. He held banking positions, was a magistrate from 1834 and a warden for the Sydney Council from 1843. He acted as secretary for the committee petitioning the Queen for a new Constitution, was a member of the Legislative Council from 1853-1856 and represented the counties of Gloucester and Macquarie in the Legislative Assembly from 1856-7. Thomas Barker also had an enduring interest in education.

Barker built the main dwelling at *Maryland*, which was completed in 1859, being connected to a pre-existing cottage dated to the 1840's, both of which still stand. An even earlier dwelling from the 1820s was demolished to make way for the 1840s house.

The main building is a large early colonial style house laid out on a rectangular plan. Despite gothic chimneys and classical verandah posts, overall styling is more traditional (Australian Georgian). It is of stone rubble construction with stuccoed, ashlar finish and stone quoining (now painted), with a hipped, galvanised iron roof and sandstone chimneys. It has skillion verandahs on the eastern and northern frontages with returns to the southern side.



It occupies a prominent hilltop location forming an important reference point in the local area, further emphasised by the conspicuous old Araucaria pine plantings and gate lodge along the Northern Road. The major development of the estate was undertaken after Barker took up residence there. There were entrance lodges to the property, both on the Bringelly and the Cobbitty sides of the estate. The main house stood on a hill, "*for it is entirely on its slopes that the garden and vineyards are situated - is surrounded by a strong fence, having two sets of gates*".



The prospect was admired for its pool of water (a large dam), its "*peacefully browsing*" cattle and its enclosures planted with pines. The gardens and 8.5 ha of vineyards are situated on the slopes surrounding the house. The orchards and kitchen gardens are both on the eastern slope and there are also plantations of ornamental trees. The Barkers were responsible for many of the decorative gardens that were located close to the house, including margins of the whole of the carriage drive and other walkways between the vineyards and pleasure grounds.

Thomas Barker had a passion for wine and he grew the first red heritage and vidal grapes in the colony. His wine was highly commended in Paris in 1882. Unfortunately, a fire burned down his wine store in 1899. His son Thomas Jnr lost the vintage and never really recovered.



Kitchen



Dining room

The fire destroyed casks of wine and brandy kept on site, the on-site cooperage and a collection of Australian woods which were considered valuable at the time. Parts of the building were able to be saved from the fire and nearby buildings including the press house and some stables avoided damage. Sometime around the late 19th or early 20th century, large-scale wine making on the property appears to have wound down.



Manager's house



Northern gatehouse

Thomas Barker only had the one child, his son Thomas Charles, who had married Emily Macarthur Chisholm of *Gledswood*, Narellan. Thomas Jnr and Emily had no children. They carried on at *Maryland*, and when Thomas Charles died in 1840 the property was sold to Henry John and Olive Annie Andrews in August 1940. The Andrews almost immediately sold the property in September 1940 to Ninian Alan and Janet Thomson. They had two daughters and two sons.

When Annie Thomson was two, her father took control of the family business, Mauri Brothers and Thomson, a merchant company in Sydney, [see *BMACHO Heritage* Issue No. 73 March-April 2020, P.15] and moved the family to Double Bay. In 1940 Alan Thomson bought *Maryland*, by then a 400-hectare dairy farm and early 19th-century homestead, so he could run the business in the city and enjoy country life. His daughters Annie and Elizabeth worked on the farm and supported the family during World War II and the hard times that followed. When their father died in 1952, Annie and Elizabeth took over the farm because their brothers had gone into business in Sydney.

One of the most popular exhibits at the Royal Easter Show for many years from 1964, was the *Milky Way*, a portable dairy where milkmaids dressed from the 1800s gave demonstrations. Annie Thomson provided the commentary, helping to educate city people about country ways. Annie Thomson and her sister, Elizabeth, ran the family property where they raised prizewinning Holstein-Friesian cattle and showed them all around NSW. They were the mainstay of their community, known to everyone as "*the Girls*", even when in their 80s and still working harder than most people half their ages.

In 2004 Annie and Elizabeth Thomson were each awarded the *Medal of the Order of Australia* for their contributions to shows, the dairy industry and the community. Elizabeth died in 2006. Annie died aged 87 in 2009 having never married. Members of the Thomson family continue to live in the homestead today, and it continues as a working estate.

However, the property adjoins one of NSW's fastest-growing housing areas. The Lowes Creek/Maryland precinct alongside the Northern Road has been earmarked for residential development for more than a decade and will serve the future Sydney airport site at Badgery's Creek. The developer [who is also behind the Narellan Town Centre, Emerald Hills and Gregory Hills], plans to build function halls, restaurants and farmer's markets over a third of the Maryland site [34%]. The development will include heritage curtilage [10%] and give over 7% to community and school uses. A large portion will be dedicated to public parkland. The old winery buildings will be refurbished as a dining and function centre.

Patsy Moppett

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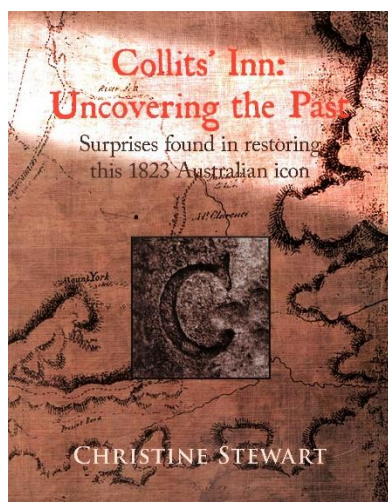
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Book Review: Collits' Inn: Uncovering the Past

By Christine Stewart 2021

Extract from back cover: *Collits' Inn sits at the foot of Mount York, in Hartley Vale, just on the other side of the Blue Mountains.*

The Inn was built by Pierce Collits, an ex-convict, in 1823. The book is the personal story of restoring one of Australia's earliest Inns. All travellers crossing the Blue Mountains in 1823 had to come down the notoriously dangerous Cox's Pass past the Inn on their way to the settlement of Bathurst and other lands to the west.





Collits' Inn 2016

There were many surprises during the restoration such as the Collits' Inn Operetta, the early nearby cemetery, the story of a murder, the many beautiful linoleums and the discovery of two strange mediaeval customs.

When the Inn was acquired by the author and her husband in 1998, it was very derelict. By 2002 several awards had been received both for the restoration and for the Collits Inn restaurant.

The detective work required in restoring the Inn and writing the book was always challenging, often frustrating but ultimately extremely interesting.

Editor's note: This book, only just released, contains a wealth of information and many wonderful photographs, of both the history of the Hartley area and the journey taken by the Stewarts to restore this wonderful site.

Copies are available from the **Gang Gang Gallery in Lithgow**, and other local book outlets.

Book Review: Street Whys: The Origins of Blue Mountains City Street Names

By Christopher J Woods

Although this book has been around since 1997, many people are unaware of its existence and therefore of the stories behind many of the street names in the Blue Mountains. Here are a few snippets from its pages:

- **Ambo Street, Blackheath:** Named after 1980 and is a Latin word for "both", and also the term for an early Christian pulpit, referring to the shape of the nearby Fort Rock.
- **Harley Avenue, Mount Victoria:** There are four options given for this naming. Named in 1918 for Mr Harley, Minister of Local Government 1889; OR, Harley McLaughlan (1883-1953) of "Tarella", Wentworth Falls; OR, Harley and Byrne were motor car proprietors of "Kiora", Blackheath in 1917; OR, Harley Digby Cox (1863-1916), great grandson of William Cox.
- **Saint Bernard's Drive, Lawson:** In 1880 this was to be part of Erin Street, but was re-surveyed and became the main road to the Lawson Baths about 1930. The name was suggested by Percy Wilson sometime before 1917, to commemorate either his son Bernard or Barney (Bernard) Bede Kieran (1886-1905), a swimming champion of the day. The "Saint" was erroneously added at a later date.
- **Tuke Lane, Katoomba:** Named after 1980. Nelson Tuke was an optician and jeweller in Katoomba Street in 1913.
- **Carlton Street, Katoomba:** Listed as Tramway Street or Road in 1917, although an earlier map of 1890 lists it correctly. The "Carlton" was a guest house on the corner of Katoomba and Waratah Streets from 1912 to 1934. The tramway was the coal railway which ran from the Great Western Railway to what is now the Scenic Railway

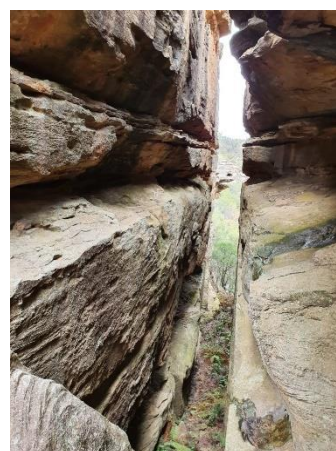
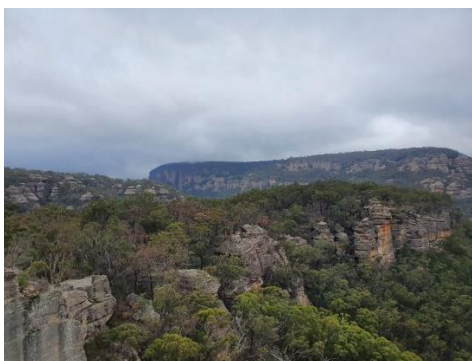
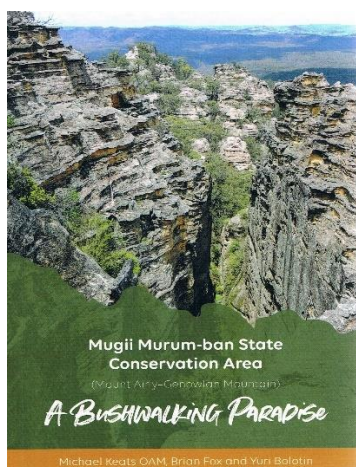
and thence to Megalong Valley as well as the Ruined Castle. Torrens Street used to run off Carlton Street to the east before the Catalina racing circuit was built in 1958.

Editor's note: It may be that various entries in the book have been superseded by more recent research, and further details may be available from other sources.

Book Review: Muggi Murum-ban State Conservation Area

By Michael Keats OAM, Brian Fox and Yuri Bolotin 2021

Extract from back cover: *Mugii Murum-ban State Conservation Area, dominated by the two pagoda-encrusted mesas of Mount Airly and Genolan Mountain, is the epitome of Nature's grand design. It combines intricate rock formations, stupendous views, mind-bending intimate spaces, soaring cliffs, rare or endangered plants and animals; and historic Wiradjuri and European archaeological sites. As a destination, it exerts an addictive, emotional pull that we found impossible to resist.*



Little known by contemporary bushwalkers except for a group of dedicated adventurers, and under real ongoing threat from coal mining, Muggi Murum-ban is one of our favourite walking and exploring playgrounds within the Greater Blue Mountains. While nothing can compare to being there, this book, designed for bushwalkers of all experience levels, is intended to bring you very close and to encourage you to plan your own visit.

This 692-page book has chapters on social and mining history, conservation history and challenges, aboriginal heritage, geology, fauna and flora, as well as 34 amazing bushwalks. It is illustrated with maps and hundreds of colour photographs.

Available from leading books shops throughout the Blue Mountains region, or from the authors at www.bushexplorers.com.au

PLEASE NOTE THE CLOSING DATE FOR ARTICLES AND NOTIFICATIONS TO THE EDITOR FOR THE MARCH-APRIL 2022 ISSUE OF HERITAGE is Tuesday 22nd February 2022

Community events & updates

Woodford Footbridge Update – a win for the community

Elizabeth Burgess reports from Woodford that the footbridge has been saved – at least in the short term!

On December 15th Sydney Trains advised Blue Mountains City Council that following a site visit on Tuesday 23 November, Sydney Trains have decided to postpone the decision to demolish the footbridge adjacent to Railway Parade, Woodford.

All proposed communications to local residents via letterdrops, Facebook, etc have now been suspended, and Sydney Trains will now review the alternative long-term options for the bridge including major refurbishments works and bridge renewal.



Footbridge to the far left 1919

In the meantime, Sydney Trains maintenance teams are being consulted to ensure that the bridge is maintained and remains safe for pedestrian use. It is expected that a long-term plan, together with appropriate funding will be developed within the next 1-2 years.

Sydney Trains will continue to liaise and consult with BMCC during the upcoming decision-making process. They indicate that they will be in touch with the community in the New Year to advise further steps, however they hope that the decision to not go ahead with the demolition is a good indication that they understand community concerns regarding impact and look forward to working with the community to ensure this is maintained.

Elizabeth gives thanks to councillors and council staff for their effective advocacy for the retention of the historic footbridge. Thanks are also extended to the State Member for her support and advocacy, to local historians Ken Goodlet & Kate O'Neill whose research skills and passion for local heritage led to the re-listing of the footbridge on the local heritage register, and to everyone who signed the petition, painted, performed on and tied ribbons to the footbridge during the campaign.

Thanks go out to Sydney Trains for FINALLY - after 8 years - making the RIGHT decision regarding the fate of their bridge. This is an incredible win for the Woodford community, and it is hoped that the footbridge will remain across the railway line to Memorial Park for at least another 100 years!

Elizabeth Burgess

*The bridge, although neither a work of art nor a thing of beauty, will be very serviceable.
(Blue Mountains Echo 3/12/1920)*

Transport Heritage NSW (Thnsw) Grants 2021

More than \$175,000 has been awarded to twelve heritage transport groups across NSW as part of this year's Transport Heritage Grants Program. The NSW Government funded program supports the restoration and conservation of the state's heritage transport assets and encourages the community to rediscover the culture, events and people that helped shape transport in NSW over the past 165 years.

Transport Heritage NSW CEO, Andrew Moritz, said this year's grants reflect the wide range of collections and interests of those in the heritage transport sector. "*The Transport Heritage Grants Program provides much needed support to the many volunteers who work tirelessly across our State to bring our rich transport history to life,*" Mr. Moritz said.

"Whether it be replacing upholstery in a vintage bus, repainting a locomotive or developing museum displays and interpretation, this program is vital to heritage transport groups across the state." The program administered by the Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS) and

supported by Transport Heritage NSW, received over \$488k in applications from some 19 heritage transport groups across NSW.



Bathurst Rail Museum



Oberon-Tarana Heritage Railway Inc

A total of \$179,536 was allocated to the following organisations and projects:

- Tumbarumba Historical Society
- Bathurst Rail Museum
- Sydney Tramway Museum
- Australian Railway Historical Society (NSW Division)
- Rail Motor Society
- Sydney Bus Museum
- ACT Heritage Rail Holdings
- Tenterfield Railway Preservation Society
- Sydney Heritage Fleet
- Coast Heritage Rail
- Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway
- Sydney Electric Train Society

Transport Heritage Grants are awarded under two categories: exhibition, education, interpretation or publication; and restoration, reconstruction and preservation. A major grant is awarded each year to the application deemed most worthy by the review panel.

Although no Blue Mountains projects received support this year, congratulations go out to Bathurst and Oberon in the Central West for their funding achievements.

Community War Memorials Fund

Applications are now open to Round 2 of the NSW Government's Community War Memorials Fund 2021/22. Eligible organisations can apply online for grants of up to \$10,000 to protect, conserve or repair local war memorials in NSW.

Applications close on Friday, 11 February 2022.



The NSW Government established the Community War Memorials Fund to help conserve, repair and protect war memorials across NSW. Since the establishment of the program in 2008, grants have been provided for a wide range of projects including conservation assessments, honour roll repair, war memorial cleaning and conservation work, arborist advice for war memorial trees, security measures for memorials, repairs to war memorial halls and improvements to the accessibility of memorials.

Further information about the Community War Memorials Fund and the Guideline can be found on the NSW Office for Veterans Affairs website at <https://www.veterans.nsw.gov.au/heritage/community-war-memorials-fund/>

Culture, Heritage and Arts Regional Tourism (CHART) Program Funding

The Culture, Heritage and Arts Regional Tourism (CHART) program is a \$3 million Australian Government program that aims to support community cultural, heritage and arts organisations in regional Australia as they recover from the impacts of COVID-19. The Australian Museums and Galleries Association (AMaGA) is administering the CHART program on behalf of the Australian Government.



The CHART program promotes participation in, and access to, Australia's arts and culture through developing and supporting cultural expression and sharing stories of community and historical significance. Community-run arts and cultural organisations – including community museums, galleries, and historical societies – will benefit from CHART program funding. The program will support these organisations to continue to offer appealing cultural tourism experiences to visitors, which in turn will enhance local expenditure. The intended outcomes of CHART program grants are to:

- Contribute to the reactivation and recovery of organisations from COVID-19, and to their ongoing sustainability, by providing grants for eligible activities
- Promote regional arts and cultural tourism by supporting the development of appealing cultural tourism experiences, including through the preservation of Australia's cultural heritage and the telling of the stories of local communities and
- Support domestic intra- and inter-state tourism and local economies more broadly.

Applications opened 5th November 2021 for applications and will close when the funding allocation has been expended or on 29 April 2022, whichever is sooner. Applications will be assessed in batches of 100, through a rolling evaluation process. All activities funded by the CHART program must be delivered and acquitted by 30 June 2022.

Make sure you have read the Guidelines before starting your application:

- Guidelines: (https://www.amaga.org.au/sites/default/files/uploaded-content/websitecontent/CHART/chart_guidelines_amaga_-_final_for_publishing.pdf)
- FAQ and scenario examples: (https://www.amaga.org.au/sites/default/files/uploaded-content/websitecontent/CHART/chart_combined_faqs_and_scenarios_amaga_-_final_for_publishing.pdf)

- Geographic eligibility map: (<https://bit.ly/CHARTPROGRAM>) (enter your address - all locations, except the red zone are eligible, if you are in the red zone your project may still be eligible if it is delivered outside of the red zone, please check the guidelines for full details)
- Declaration of solvency template:
(https://www.amaga.org.au/sites/default/files/uploadedcontent/website-content/declaration_of_solvency.docx)

NSW contact - Chelsie Baldwin: <mailto:chelsie.baldwin@amaga.org.au>

Annual General Meeting - Lithgow Branch, National Trust of Australia (NSW)

Wednesday 17th November 2021

Held at "Southleigh", 573 Browns Gap Rd, Hartley

The meeting was given an opening address by Anne Weinman, National Trust Director - People, with Melissa Green – National Trust Volunteers, and from Lithgow Council's General Manager, Craig Butler.

The Committee for 2021 was elected as follows:

- Chairperson – Danny Whitty.
- Deputy Chair – Kathryn Newton.
- Treasurer – Ramsay Moodie.
- Secretary – Kathryn Newton.
- Minutes Secretary – Fiona Lawless.
- Publicity/Events – Celia Ravesi.
- Public Officer – National Trust (NSW)

"Events" Committee – Kathryn Newton, Fiona Lawless, Ramsay & Suzie Moodie, Tony & Celia Ravesi, Danny & Robyn Whitty.

Annual General Meeting – Mt Victoria and District Historical Society

Saturday 27 November 2021

Held at the Museum, Mt Victoria

The Committee for 2021 was elected as follows:

- President - Tony Middleton
- Vice President - Jack Thompson
- Secretary - Bob Salijevic
- Treasurer – Tony Middleton
- Members - Barbara Palmer, Kay Graham, Roy Bennett, Tim Jones

Annual General Meeting – Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum

Saturday 20th November 2021

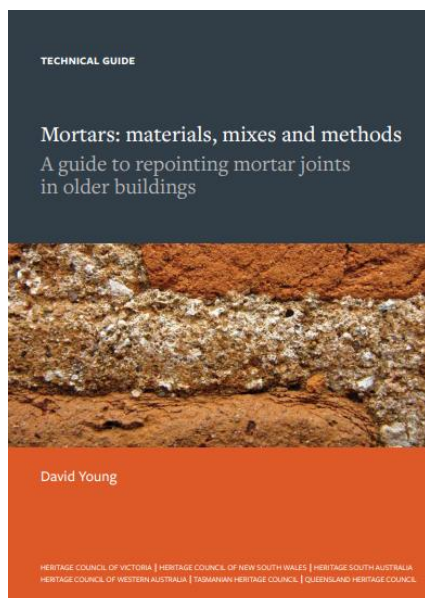
Held at the Museum, Valley Heights

The Committee for 2021 was elected as follows:

- Volunteer Chair - Keith Ward
- Secretary, webmaster, membership - Grant Robinson
- Treasurer - Serge Sequen
- Publicity, safety - Andrew Tester
- Building services, perway - Ted Dickson
- Building restoration - Dave Grove
- Ground maintenance - David Wainwright
- Retail – Stephen Corrigan
- Exhibits, small exhibits - Michael Pensini
- Model railway - Ray Beharrell
- Workshop - Terry Matchett
- Planning and development manager - Henk Luf

Technical Guide: Mortars: materials, mixes and methods

A new technical guide, *Mortars: materials, mixes and methods, a guide to repointing mortar joints in older buildings*, has just been released by the Heritage Council of Victoria. Written by David Young OAM, an acknowledged expert in the use and application of traditional mortars, and supported by the heritage councils of each state, the new technical guide is an essential resource for anyone wishing to repair older stone or brick buildings in Australia.



Traditional lime burning – Carabooda, WA

Lime was the principal binder in mortars and plasters of Australia's early colonial buildings, and it continued to be used in domestic construction until the mid-twentieth century. However, major changes in building practices after World War II led to the predominant use of cement in mortars. This change led to a decline in understanding of the properties of lime mortars, their important role in porous masonry, as well as the practical aspects of working with lime. This technical guide helps fill this gap.

https://heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/research-projects/technicalguide_mortars/

Blue Mountains Association of Cultural and Heritage Organisations (BMACHO) Bi-annual Conference 2023

Save the date! BMACHO has scheduled the *Blue Mountains History Conference* for **Saturday 6th May 2023** and initial preparations are underway.



Conference 2021, Lithgow

The theme this time will be *Railways* through the Blue Mountains region and how they opened up the countryside for western settlement. Railway organisations and experts will be consulted from within the region and beyond, and it is hoped we will be able to provide an excursion or two on the Sunday.

The venue is yet to be chosen. Watch this space for further details!!!

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 has been slow following on from the recent corona virus lockdowns, and activities are of course limited. However, things are happening now and businesses opening up again! 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 2022.

Should any business wish to be considered for inclusion in the next brochure, as a place of accommodation or an eating house along the trail route, please contact BMACHO at [http://committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au](mailto:committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au)

If you are a member and you would like further information, or if you would like to become a member, please email BMACHO at committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au

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

To find out more about BMACHO visit <http://bluemountainsheritage.com.au>



Happy New Year for 2022!

BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

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

Website: <http://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, Vaughan Bryers, Fiona Burn, Philip Hammon, Dr Wayne Hanley, Michael Keats, Ian Milliss, Patsy Moppett, Keith Painter, Barbara Palmer, 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), 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, 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.