

Heritage

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Acknowledgement of Country

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

The Legacy of Blue Gum Forest

In 1931-32 there occurred, deep in the Grose Valley, one of the most important events in the modern history of the Blue Mountains. A group of bushwalkers from Sydney managed to save what became known as the Blue Gum Forest from the axe. The result of their effort was that the forest was reserved on 2nd September 1932 - ninety years ago!



*1875 image: An 1875 photo by Joseph Bischoff, showing the Grose River at Blue Gum Forest.
(NSW State Library)*

It may seem like no big deal now, when much of the Blue Mountains bush is protected by National Parks. By today's standards the bushwalkers' campaign was modest affair. The "enemy" wasn't a mining company, wealthy developer or belligerent government authority: it

was a pair of battling soldier-settlers from Mount Tomah named Clarrie Hungerford and Bert Pierce.

Yet, the event's ramifications were huge.

Here is the story, in brief. In 1930 Hungerford and Pierce cut the Pierces Pass track into the Grose Valley. Hungerford took out a 40-acre lease on the Mount Banks side of the river, near the Govetts Creek junction - part of the extensive forest of *Eucalyptus deanei*, then only known to a few adventurous souls. Like others before him, he started grazing cattle there. At Easter 1931 a group from the Sydney Bush Walkers and Mountain Trails clubs went to camp in the forest. They were led by Alan Rigby, a photographer. They probably walked from Govetts Leap: there was no track from Perrys Lookdown then.



1931 image: The Sydney Bush Walkers club members camped in the forest, 1931. Photo by Alan Rigby



1935 image: The Grose River and Blue Gum Forest, photographed in 1935 by Hec Carruthers

In the forest they came across Hungerford and Pierce. Hungerford told them he planned to clear the gum trees to plant walnuts. (It is possible he was only bluffing, but that is beside the point.) The bushwalkers were horrified. They went back to their clubs to see what could be done to stop him.

The Blue Gum Forest Committee was formed, comprising volunteers from bushwalking clubs, the Scouts and the Wild Life Preservation Society. Its secretary was Myles Dunphy, founder of the Mountain Trails Club and campaigner for the creation of national parks. They tried to stop Hungerford by appealing to the authorities, but soon found that the only way to save the forest was to pay him off. On 15th November 1931 the committee sat down with him in the forest, in pouring rain. Hungerford agreed to give up his lease for 130 pounds - over \$20,000 in today's terms.

Hungerford possibly had no intention to clear the forest. He was shrewd and may have concocted the walnut story to take advantage of the bushwalkers. True or not, it doesn't matter now: what matters is what followed.

Funds were raised by way of donations, social events and publications. It was hard work, because the Great Depression was at its height. Luckily the committee was able to meet Hungerford's deadline when an interest-free loan was obtained from Jim Cleary, head of the NSW Railways and subsequently Chair of the ABC - and a bushwalker himself. The committee eventually raised the money to repay him.

Hungerford gave up the lease and, as arranged, the government proclaimed Reserve 63521 for public recreation on 2nd September 1932. It was unofficially known as The Blue Gum Forest. Soon afterwards, persuaded by the bushwalkers as to the importance of the forests in the valley more generally, the government reserved strips along the Grose River and Govetts Creek, beyond the Blue Gum Forest reserve.

Trustees were appointed to manage the forest, including some of the original activists. One of those was Dorothy Lawry, who wrote in 1934:

The Blue Gum Forest is [the bushwalkers'] own, physically as well as spiritually, for it is through their efforts that the trees still live. And, like a tree, the effects of those efforts are still growing and spreading, for the Lands Department officials now know that the walkers recognise and love beauty in nature and are anxious to preserve it, and willing to work to attain their object. So any requests for the preservation of primitive areas that the walkers make now receive very sympathetic consideration, and already two further areas have been added to the State's reserves.

Lawry's remarks were more pertinent than she knew. Arguably, the forest was to be the cradle of today's NSW conservation movement. In 1961 the reserve was swallowed by the fledgeling Blue Mountains National Park. But how did that park, and all the others in our World Heritage Area, come into being? The story starts back in that Blue Gum Forest campaign and the associated events of the time.

It was no accident that the forest's reservation occurred in the same year as the formation of the Federation of Bushwalking Clubs (now Bushwalking NSW) and Dunphy's National Parks and Primitive Areas Council. Fired up by the success of their collective action, bushwalkers became the main players in the movement to promote the creation of National Parks. Subsequently they were active in forming new groups including the Nature Conservation Council, the National Parks Association and the Colong Foundation (now Wilderness Australia).

In fact, however, the Grose Valley featured in Blue Mountains conservation history long before the 1930s bushwalkers arrived. Back in the 1850s there was a plan to put the railway all the way up the Grose River from Yarrumundi and thence through a long tunnel under the Darling causeway, to emerge in Hartley Vale. *[The Engineers' Track – see BMACHO's Heritage Newsletter No. 80, May-June 2022]*. The plan was abandoned in favour of the route over the top of the mountains. Apart from the difficulties of the tunnel, the line would have been hopelessly exposed to landslips, rockfalls, and floods as it passed up the valley.



Piquenit painting: Painting by William Piquenit, depicting the Grose River upstream from the forest. It was done from a sketch he made while in the valley in 1875. (NSW State Library)

Strangely, we can thank the original railway scheme for saving the forest - and indeed the whole valley. In surveying for the proposed railway, the Royal Engineers constructed a bridle track all the way from Yarrumundi to the Darling Causeway. Before that, the valley could only be accessed by adventurous passes used by the Darug people. While only parts of the Engineers' Track can be traced today, for some years it provided easy access to the valley for a variety of interesting people. The photographer Robert Hunt visited while the Engineers were still at work, in 1859, thereby producing some of the first wilderness photos in the world.

The most significant visitors to use the track appeared in 1875. Conservationist Eccleston du Faur organised an expedition of artists and academics to spend several weeks in the valley. They followed the track down from the Darling Causeway and camped by Govetts Creek near its junction with the Grose River. Joseph Bischoff took several impressive photos, and William Pigenit produced dramatic sketches and paintings.

Convinced that the scenery of the Grose ranked with that of America, Du Faur was then instrumental in having the state government reserve from sale the whole Grose Valley and its immediate surroundings. Officially the reason was to protect the catchment in case a dam were to be built in the valley. However, it was also to protect the "*national spectacle*" which the valley offered. There was no national park in Australia then - the first was the Royal, in 1879 - but the Grose Valley reservation was, in effect, Australia's first broad-scale national park. It kept development out of the valley until the Blue Mountains National Park was declared.

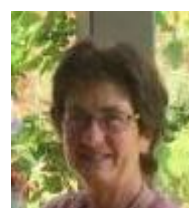
The reservation did not, however, stop people obtaining a lease, grazing cattle, cutting down trees and even mining. This shortcoming was to give rise to the campaign of 1931-32.

Andy Macqueen

(The above article is adapted from the author's articles recently published in Hut News, the newsletter of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society. For more about the above stories, see Andy Macqueen's book "Back from the Brink: Blue Gum Forest and the Grose Wilderness".)

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Food for thought Editor's note

During Covid19 most organisations experienced difficulties with regard to meeting operations and found that in some instances their constitutions did not cater for the

circumstances presented by the situation. We all stumbled through one way or another or simply shut down for the duration of the pandemic.

In response, and in keeping with the legislative requirement to review the Associations Incorporation Regulation every five years, the NSW government has reviewed the rules and determined a range of updates for the day-to-day operation of incorporated associations so that they are fairer, more productive and better meet the needs of the community and business. NSW Fair Trading has consulted with the public and comments were received up until 29th July 2022. They have drafted a proposed Regulation that keeps many of the existing rules, but will introduce some new requirements in areas such as:

- Using technology for committee and general meetings
- Financial reporting requirements
- Postal or electronic ballots
- Filling casual vacancies.

Incorporated associations enable community interest groups to develop and provide services to their members in a manner which is consistent with their purpose and objectives as set out in each association's constitution. The legislation provides comprehensive operational and administrative guidance for associations, including a registration process, association names and objectives, a model constitution, election and meeting procedures and dispute resolution.

It is to be hoped that BMACHO organisations availed themselves of the opportunity to view the changes and have regard for the implications for their situation.

Inquiries: NSW Fair Trading, Department of Customer Service, NSW Government GPO Box 7060, Sydney NSW 2001

The Review is a timely reminder for all organisations to review their own constitutions, paying particular notice to the proposed changes, as well as other elements of the document, for example, the requirements for meeting operations. Having recently stumbled ourselves (BMACHO) on requirements for quorums for meetings, it can sometimes be the smallest details where a refresher is needed!!!

The committee members and the public officer are responsible for the smooth and appropriate operation of the organisation, and to avoid embarrassing clangers in terms of auditing, members are advised to make full use of the Regulation and their own constitution content. This includes meeting quorums and operations, recording of minutes, membership procedures and elections, registration, financial reporting and auditing, voting and accounts, offences and liabilities, appeals, penalties and fees, resolution of disputes, duties and delegations.

Woodford Academy's Inheritance

The Woodford Academy was stunned last year to discover that they had had a 400 year old Dutch master's painting gathering dust in their storage area. BMACHO was recently privileged to be given a presentation by the Woodford Academy's National Trust Chair, Kate O'Neill, in regard to this event.

A replica of the painting is hung on a wall of the Academy now, with the original being sent away with a number of other works for safe keeping in 2009. Conservation work commenced on the old work in 2021, which was painted on two panels of oak hardwood and painted over with a dark varnish, depicting a tabletop containing various objects relating to a meal including a wine glass, goblet, a pie and fruit, on a crumpled tablecloth. The name of the artist was identified during the restoration as worked on a knife blade in the picture.

The interpretive signage accompanying the replica at the Academy reads as follows:

[Still Life] c. 1640

Gerret Willemsz. Heda

Oil on hardboard (replica)

This still life painting was amongst the contents of the Woodford Academy bequeathed to the National Trust NSW in 1979 by Gertrude McManamey. It was removed for safe

keeping in 2009 but remained untouched in storage for many years. In 2022, the painting underwent conservation removing centuries of grime revealing the signature of the Dutch artist Gerret Willemsz. Heda.

Heda is believed to be the son of the famous Dutch 17th century still life painter Willem Claesz. Heda. Gerret painted in the style of his father but died at a young age.

The painting is characterised by a rich and opulent collection of objects known as “banketjes” (banquet pieces). *The Breakfast Table with Blackberry Pie* is an allegorical depiction of the transient nature of life or the sin of over-indulgence. It was a signature piece for both father and son who produced dozens of paintings all featuring the same pie, plate, knife and carafe positioned on a crushed and draped tablecloth.

The provenance of the painting is unclear but it was likely present in the house when the building was set up as a school by Gertie’s father John McManamey in 1907. It may also have been part of the collection of previous owners including the entrepreneur Alfred Fairfax, or William Buss, the former convict who operated the building as a roadside inn during the prosperous gold rush era.



The original painting, where the centre join can clearly be seen

According to Rebecca Pinchin, Collections Manager for National Trust (NSW), the discovery of a new Heda work is extremely rare.

“We believed the artwork might be an authentic 17th century painting, but finding the artist’s signature felt like a one in a million chance,” says Pinchin. “This is a remarkable story of discovery, which has taken us on a journey across a number of years, piecing together and validating the work through expert advice and technology.”

In its 400 years the painting has had an adventurous history - crossing the globe and passing through multiple owners, properties and storerooms - all while remaining in a salvageable condition.

But how did it finish up at Woodford? While the full provenance is yet to be researched, Dutch pictures had become increasingly fashionable in Australia by the 1830s and were often brought here as symbols of cultural development of the colony. It’s possible that *Still Life*, along with Woodford’s substantial collection of 19th century Victorian paintings, was acquired around the 1870s by Alfred Fairfax, who bought Woodford House and refurbished it initially as a gentleman’s country retreat and then when finances soured, as an up-market guesthouse.

The house later became a private school – Woodford Academy – from 1907 to 1936, run by Headmaster John McManamey. McManamey’s daughters remained in the academy after his death, and in a curious twist there is a photo of Gertrude McManamey in her sitting room,

seated below a painting with the same wooden frame *Still Life* was found in, suggesting the piece may have hung in her home.



The Still Life replica at the Academy today

In 1979, Gertrude bequeathed Woodford Academy to the National Trust. The painting was included with the house, but Pinchin says the collection was in a state of disrepair. Until the funds were finally raised as part of the National Trust (NSW)'s major art appeal in 2021, the painting remained a mystery.

Gerret Willemsz. Heda was the son and pupil of the great still-life master Willem Claesz Heda (1594-1680), born 1624-5. He died young in 1649. The painting has been dated to 1640, making the artist, Gerrit Willemsz. Heda, no older than 17 years at the time of its execution. There is little information concerning the life of Gerret Heda. The earliest document to mention the painter is an entry in the register of the Saint Luke's Guild of Haarlem dated July 7, 1642. In it, his father affirms that his second son, Gerret, is one of his pupils. In 1642 Gerret also joined Haarlem's civic guard, which suggests he was at least eighteen years old at that time. That would place his birth in or shortly before 1624. His death date is not known, but it has been postulated that he died in 1649 since a tomb for "a son of Willem Claesz Heda" was opened in that year, though there is no conclusive evidence that the son was Gerrit. But his death must have occurred before 1661, when his parents made a will in which he is not named among the children. Although Gerret is included among a list of artists active in the Haarlem Saint Luke's Guild in the 1650s, no precise membership date appears next to his name, so it has been questioned whether he was in fact active in those years. In 1702 Gerret is listed as deceased in a compilation of past members of the Haarlem Saint Luke's Guild.

In style and ability Gerret Heda compares closely to his father, and it is difficult to distinguish between the two artists, which makes determining the date of his death all the more complicated. Gerret made copies of some of his father's breakfast scenes while he was a member of the workshop, and he and his father must have collaborated on paintings. Attempts have been made to distinguish between the signatures of the paintings made by Willem Claesz. Heda and those painted independently by Gerret. Many variations of the signatures exist so no firm conclusion can be made on this basis.

"He was so young and so gifted," says Pinchin. "Even if this artwork was painted as a father-son-collaboration, the level of Gerrit's skill in this painting is incredible. The handling of all the different textures, from the fabric and glass carafe, to the pie and the metal plate, is really quite miraculous."

The long-awaited unveiling of this painting's history and value has shed light on just how crucial it is to care for historical collections.

Patsy Moppett

Trigonometrical (Trig) Stations

We may see these features on maps or when out bushwalking and often wonder what their purpose is, not realizing their history or their significance to surveying and the development of the modern urban and rural landscape.

Early explorers, who by default were in effect surveyors, fixed their position by observations to the sun and stars and related this to visible landmarks such as prominent hills, rivers or settlements. The process of triangulation was used as the method to provide the locations of land features, which were then used to connect to smaller scale surveys or for mapping. Most were located on points where they were visible and where it was possible to observe to other familiar features.

On 1st January 1836 the first recorded directions for surveying were given by Surveyor General Mitchell to all surveyors. The period between 1833 and 1864 is critical in the development of survey practice in NSW. Prior to 1836 very little appears to have been formalised regarding survey directions and the earliest directions so far found were in the form of circulars to improve marking and identification of corners. The first licensed surveyors took up their positions in 1844. 1864 saw the forerunner of permanent marking in town surveys introduced, and in 1886 permanent marking was introduced e.g. bottle, gas-pipe, iron bolt, vertically below survey post at corner, three feet six inches below ground surface etc.



Gunter chain



Mitchell's theodolite

By 1901 the Gunter chain (depicted in a few early paintings as the heavy tool of measurement that surveyors had to lug around with them) ceased to be standard equipment. As the colonies in Australia expanded, so did the requirement for accurate mapping. Land surveys were needed to delineate new land rights as settlers fanned out from Sydney. Early maps contained key topographical detail necessary to plan transport routes and the siting of towns and villages.

But in order to link the many individual surveys compiled by the early explorers and surveyors, a control network was required. In June 1920 survey marking as we know it under the Local Government Act, 1919 was introduced under Ordinance 32.

The LPI details the history of the Survey as follows:

The Trigonometrical Survey of New South Wales, as it was then known, commenced in 1867 with the selection of the first baseline at Lake George and continued with little interruption for almost 50 years until it was suspended for reasons of economy and war in 1916. By then, about one third of the State (mainly in the south-east) had been covered by a series of well-conditioned triangles of first and lower orders. The survey was resumed intermittently between the two World Wars with much of its progress attributable to the Royal Australian Survey Corps, particularly the connections to the Victorian and Queensland networks, and

along the NSW North Coast. In the 1950s and 1960s, the Division of National Mapping (now Geoscience Australia) extended the first-order networks into the western part of the State, and other networks were established by the NSW Department of Lands. Together with the first-order traverses performed by the Royal Australian Survey Corps, the geodetic network had extended to approximately half of the State prior to the national adjustment of 1966 – this had taken 100 years. A turning point in the geodetic survey network was reached in 1973 with the formulation of a plan to update, revise and complete the network to acceptable standards.....

Wherever possible, the old-style cairn and pole stations were replaced by a concrete pillar with demountable mast and vane, allowing constrained centring of theodolite and distance measuring equipment..... Over recent years, the rapid uptake of GNSS technology amongst the surveying profession has seen the perceived importance of traditional trig stations wane as surveyors became less dependent upon line-of-sight to propagate datum....

Trig stations can be located in remote areas and are often difficult and time-consuming to access and therefore have low appeal to external surveyors, when contrasted with the easy access and suitable quality of marks located along roads and urban corridors. Isolated trig stations are protected from road works and other development activities and as such are expected to have a continual lifespan. Thus, trig stations serve as the profession's 'insurance' policy, and LPI guards the vital links in the chain to current and previous realisation and propagation of datum.

The national geodetic survey and adjustment carried out in the early 1970s in Australia has left a legacy of over 6,000 trig stations, many consisting of a ground mark with a black quadripod supporting a white square disc above the ground mark. Land & Property Information (LPI, now Spatial Services) is the custodian of this infrastructure.

The trig can take on a multitude of forms, ranging from survey pillars (concrete or steel) to plugs in stone underneath rock cairns or in rare cases galvanized iron (GI) pipes or stainless steel rods in soil. Sometimes these marks have very high historical significance and are usually located in very prominent locations, such as lighthouses, church spires, radio masts and tall towers. A graven metal plate on the top of a pillar may provide a mounting point for a theodolite or reflector by a surveyor.

Positions of all property boundaries, roads, railways, bridges and other infrastructure can be accurately located by the network. Apart from the known stations set up by government, some temporary trigonometrical stations may be set up near construction sites for monitoring the precision and progress of construction works.

Many trig locations provide unique views and challenges, with some being difficult to get to. Older trigs are often now in disrepair or ruin, while the newer concrete trigs are often completely blocked from view by vegetation. Although stations are no longer always required for many surveying purposes, they remain useful to hikers as navigational aids, and are another way of spotting the top of a mountain on a map. The symbol for a trig point is a small triangle.

Although their use has lessened these survey stations still require regular maintenance such as fit-for-purpose assessments, verification of land ownership records, contact details, access details, and recent, time-stamped Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) observations. Trigs have now been prioritized in order of maintenance requirements as the viability of maintaining all 6,000 trigs is unjustified.

Trig stations in NSW appear on NSW Government's SIX Maps, and are marked with a small triangle, labelled with their registration number and site name. A trig with a 'D' at the end of its registration number has been identified as destroyed.

In addition, another form of site identification is the benchmark/survey mark, which is a bronze disc also used by surveyors, being either points of known location (latitude/longitude) or height. A trigpoint will always be associated with a survey mark, however survey marks can be independent of a trig point. There are hundreds of thousands of benchmarks or survey marks around Australia.

It is critical for LPI programs to efficiently maintain the physical trig station infrastructure and associated metadata while upgrading the survey network with new, time-stamped, high-accuracy GNSS observations. These improvements have had a significant and lasting effect in regard to the next-generation datum but have also helped increase the general public's appreciation of the surveying profession in general and the importance of survey infrastructure and its preservation in particular.

The Editor's wanderings have revealed some intriguing trig locations across the Blue Mountains and in the Gardens of Stone region. One particular feature of the Blue Mountains ridge through from Lapstone to Mt Victoria is the use of water reservoirs to mount trig stations. In some other instances, one wonders how on earth they managed to mount the trig in such places as cliff tops!



Bullaburra



Lawson



Mt Piddington



Woodford



Mt Clarence, Lithgow



Hassans Walls, Lithgow



King George (Mt Banks)



Portland



Wolgan Gap



Mt Ovens



Invincible



Beecroft

So, when exploring your region, on foot or by vehicle, keep your eye out for the trig stations. While enjoying the view, consider why it was put there and what it is used for today.

Patsy Moppett

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Marking the Landscape: A Short History of Survey Marking in New South Wales: Edited by I H Marshall, 1999 & 2002

The Richmond Park Cannons

Following Federation in 1901 a survey was conducted of all weapons, and obsolete guns were made available to regional councils and organisations for commemorative purposes. The guns were offered, at no charge, for display in parks, but the cost of moving and display was to be borne by the receiving organisation. Many were placed in public parks and gardens or in the grounds of RSL clubs and council buildings and on road reserves. A similar move was made after World Wars I and II. Some examples are illustrated below:



Molong RSL



Escort Rock Reserve

A war memorial in Richmond Park, a common feature of many Australian parks, has been a part of the site on the East Market Street frontage, since the early twentieth century. In 1905 Richmond Council (the Borough Council) accepted two obsolete cannons, and placed them either side of the timber grandstand, known as The Pavilion, which overlooked the cricket oval, as a Boer War Memorial in Richmond Park. The carriages arrived first and were held at the railway yard pending the arrival of the barrels. The guns were reported as being on two wooden spoke wheels with metal rims. The rear end of the cannon carried shafts about six feet long, used in conjunction with horses for transport. A plaque was attached to each explaining the significance as a memorial to soldiers who died in the Boer War in South Africa.

They had been manufactured in 1855 by Low Moor Iron Company in Bradford Yorkshire, England. Founded in 1788, Low Moor supplied iron guns to the Board of Ordnance, the first castings being made in 1791 continuing until the end of the Napoleonic War in 1815.



A 24-pounder gun being placed on a siege carriage at Woolwich in 1865

During the Crimean War gun production was resumed but was then permanently abandoned after the end of the Indian Mutiny. The Richmond cannons were once located in Sydney as part of the harbour defenses before being removed to Wollongong in 1884 to form the Bulli Artillery (Half Company) under Captain McCabe in response to the Russian invasion scare. The guns were retired from active service in the mid-1890's and positioned in front of the Married Quarters at Signal Hill, Wollongong, until about 1901.



Manufacturer's identification



Date of construction

The cannons were apparently transferred to Richmond Park in late 1904 or early 1905, with records of the Richmond Borough Council meeting of 16th February 1905, indicating that the cannons were in the park by then.

Although many long term Hawkesbury residents recalled having played on them as children, and that there were originally several guns, by 1933 the community had long forgotten the origin of the mounted cannons and they were deemed by Council to be of *no sentimental value to the town as they had come from Wollongong.*



Adjacent to The Pavilion in 1905

The *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* on 26 May 1933 reported:

Two large cannon barrels lying on the ground in front of the grandstand in the Richmond Park formed the subject of a complaint in the parks committee's report to the local council at last meeting. The committee recommended that the guns be either removed from the park or buried where they lay. Ald. Farlow asked whether any sentimental value attached to the cannons, and was informed there was not, as they originally came from Wollongong, where they had been used for coastal defence purposes.

At this point Council moved that the two war trophies be handed to the militia unit at Richmond. And so the guns disappeared. Hearsay suggested that the cannons were buried after the submarine attack on Sydney Harbour on 31st May, 1942, but this is unlikely and it appears that, after significant degradation, they were buried in the Inter-war period for safety reasons.

A fear of an invasion by the Japanese in 1939 led to all potentially *fireable* cannons being rendered unusable, but these cannons were gone before this. Most others were burnt or destroyed but the size of the cannons in Richmond Park, which weighed 3 tons each, made

this impossible. The brass plaques were removed and the cannons were buried where they stood, supposedly due to the deterioration of the timber carriages which supported the heavy iron artifacts. The fate of the plaques is unknown.

Their existence remained lost to memory until Mr Alexi (Alex) Hendrikson, of the Windsor Businessmen's Association, first heard about the cannons at a Parramatta auction in 1975. The well-known Hawkesbury identity and antique dealer became firmly convinced that somewhere in Richmond Park two cannons had been buried for unknown reasons over 50 years ago. Along with the support of Richmond local, Henry Gascoigne, and Eric Ridgeway of Wilberforce, he commenced a survey of the site using a metal detector, without success at first. The exact location was uncertain with some reports saying they had been buried beneath the foundations of the grandstand.

Reports of the search appeared in the local paper and as a result further information became available. Subsequently, and as a result of the additional information, within five minutes of recommencing the search, the presence of the barrels was confirmed by metal detector a metre inside the oval boundary fence fronting the grandstand.



Rex Stubbs & Alex Hendrickson 1985



Hendrickson plaque, The Terrace, Windsor

Finally, both of the cannons were unearthed in February 1985. When excavated in 1985, a beer bottle dated 1927 was found in the barrel of the southern-most cannon and a 1935 penny alongside the northern-most cannon.



In situ in Richmond Park

They were restored by No 2 Aircraft Depot RAAF Base Richmond, presented to Council in 1988 and placed in their current positions on either side of the War Memorial on the East Market Street side of Richmond Park. A lot of effort had gone into the restoration of the cannons, the project utilising the skills of RAAF blacksmiths and carpenters. A sketch drawing of the original cannon carriages was closely followed in order to achieve authenticity. Although the wheels and body of the cannons have been recreated, the barrels are the original ones, surviving the fifty years underground.

The memorial was originally fenced but following the discovery and excavation the fencing was removed and the cannons installed, flanking the monument. At first there was some debate about whether Council should donate the cannons to the RAAF or the Powerhouse Museum but it was decided to install the cannons where they are today.

In December 1991 the Hawkesbury Gazette reported:

Providing there is no war in Australia for the next century, Richmond's historic cannons should remain where they were placed last week - above ground at Richmond Park facing the railway station.

And if there is a war- and the locals become nervous that the enemy may use the guns on Hawkesbury residents, as they did before the Second World War - let's hope somebody has the foresight to note where the cannons were buried so there is no repeat performance of searching for the old relics.

Patsy Moppett

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Linden Observatory

This heritage listed complex was designed and built by Ken Beames between 1938 to 1948. The property is owned by the Linden Observatory Trust and was added to the NSW Heritage Register on 5th March 2010.

During the late 1800s the Australia's first astronomical groups and societies were becoming established and a strong community of amateur astronomers and telescope makers was emerging. The groups funded their own facilities and made an enormous contribution to early astronomy in Australia. John Tebutt was one of the most significant of these amateur astronomers. Tebutt became internationally acclaimed in 1861 when he became the first person in the world to discover the "Great Comet", establishing an observatory at Windsor in 1864 and continuing to make important observations in the southern skies.

Ken Beames was part of this strong tradition, but unlike most other amateur astronomers Beames' field of interest was more in the design and construction of telescopes and optical instruments rather than the observation of the night skies. In fact, during the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s Beames was one of the few if not the only amateur or professional astronomers making telescopes and other optical instruments for astronomy in NSW.

The 24" reflector telescope Beames completed in 1939 was the largest amateur or professionally constructed reflector telescope in NSW and retained this status until the 40" and 24" telescopes were constructed and installed at the Siding Spring Observatory in the mid 1960s. The Beames 24" telescope was also unique as one of the first large telescopes in Australia to incorporate electric motor drives to operate the telescope and dome. Beames also designed and engineered other optical instruments for astronomical use.



Linden Observatory

Kenneth Beames was born on a farm near Gilgandra in 1899, the 7th of 8 children. His first job was at the Gilgandra Post Office, where as a telegram boy he learned morse code and soon moved on to becoming a telegraph operator and postal officer. He also learned semaphore.

In early 1916 Beames faked his age and enlisted for World War I, serving as a signaller for the ANZAC Mounted Division of the Australian Light Horse in Palestine. He also spent time in Egypt, whilst waiting to return to Australia following his military service.

After the war he trained in electrical and mechanical engineering, and then served an apprenticeship as a telephone technician later moving onto the area of wireless making. Upon his return home he married a New Zealand girl, setting up home in Drummoyne. In 1924 he established a business making wireless sets which operated from Drummoyne and expanded to include the manufacture of various electric appliances, gaskets and washers. By the 1930s his business was known as Ken Beames Engineering Company.

In the 1930s Beames began studying optics and mathematics in pursuit of his interest in astronomy. In 1934 he completed his first telescope, and late in the 1930s he began work on the 24" reflector telescope. This was completed in 1939 although was not assembled until after World War II.

During the Second World War Beames' skills in optics enabled him to make a significant contribution to the production of optical munitions. At the time, there were very few people with the skill and knowledge in optics production and his services were called upon to make sighting telescopes and signal lamp reflectors for Aldis signal lamps used by the Royal Australian Navy & the British Navy. He also manufactured naval artillery fuse gaskets for the British Navy and parts for the airframes of Mosquito bombers for the Royal Australian Air Force.

At the end of the war Beames took steps to finally relocate and assemble his 24" telescope in a suitable place away from the light pollution of Sydney. It was first assembled in a sliding roof observatory building at Lisarow near Gosford in 1946 but the clouded night skies experienced there drove Beames to purchase land at Linden in the Blue Mountains in 1948, where he built his home.

Over the next ten years Beames designed and built the dome, and the electrical control systems. He built most of the machinery and equipment necessary to assist in the construction of the telescope. By 1959 the telescope was installed in the observatory building and made operational.



The only known photo of the observatory under construction

In the 1960s Beames commenced the construction of a large planetarium. He continued to operate his regular manufacturing business and made gaskets and fuel injector components for Leyland buses for the NSW Dept of Transport to the 1980s. This work helped to fund his ongoing work designing telescopes and other instruments.

Although best known for his telescope making, Ken Beames also had an interest in clock making, producing clocks for the observatory, including a full scale grandfather clock encased in brass with a precision mechanism.

In his later years Beames became reclusive, increasingly reoccupied with religion, mysticism and psychical matters. Beames died in March 1989 at the age of 89, after more than three years of intermittent illness following a fall.



Ken Beames and his telescope 1978



The telescope on display today

Under the terms of his will, a trust was formed to keep the observatory in perpetuity, and to use the observatory and surrounding lands for the purpose of providing a resource for amateur astronomers and for astronomical education.

Over the years, a small group of volunteers, members of the Linden community and members of Western Sydney Amateur Astronomy Group have worked with the trustees to keep the observatory viable.

The main elements of the Observatory are:

- The Observatory building housing the 24" reflecting telescope and an adjoining room, and Beames' first 1934 telescope;
- A sliding roof observatory housing a 30" telescope;

- A machine shop which also houses the planetarium instrumentation;
- A sheet metal workshop now used as a meeting room and telescope storage, with adjoining optical room;
- A storeroom;
- Telescope;
- A constant temperature building;
- Observing fields with concrete pads for telescopes to be mounted;
- Ken Beames' former residence.

The intact complex is listed on the NSW Heritage Register (2010), significant as a rich research resource with the ability to provide insight into many aspects of the field of astronomy and the history of its development in NSW. Such listing should provide funding opportunities for the ongoing operation of the site.

Visitors to the site (by appointment only) can learn firsthand about the remarkable work of Ken Beames, or for a small donation join in one of the regular beginners' groups for a tour of the sky. Larger groups and viewing nights can be arranged with sufficient notice. For bookings or more information, please complete their contact form on the web site

www.lindenobservatory.com.au

Patsy Moppett

References:

Linden Observatory Complex: Wikipedia

Linden observatory, New South Wales: One Man's Dream: Wayne Orchison 1989

www.lindenobservatory.com.au

www.wsaag.org.au

ERRATA - Ancestral Homes Network (AHN)

In our last issue we printed an article regarding the Ancestral Homes Network, elaborating on its instigation and background, and providing some information relating to the Carlon (Carolan) family homes in Australia and Ireland.

However, upon the advice of the AHN it has been brought to our notice that a photograph presented as the Carlon family home in Ireland was incorrect. The Editor now provides the correct picture.



The photograph depicts the Carolan farmhouse of 1915 and associated out-buildings, some of which may date back to the 1700s, located along the public road about 300 yards east of the entrance to the Old Moybologue Cemetery in the townland of Srahan. There is a plaque dated 1896 mounted on the gable of one of the out-buildings. It might be assumed that this is the date of construction of that building, except for the high probability that the building is

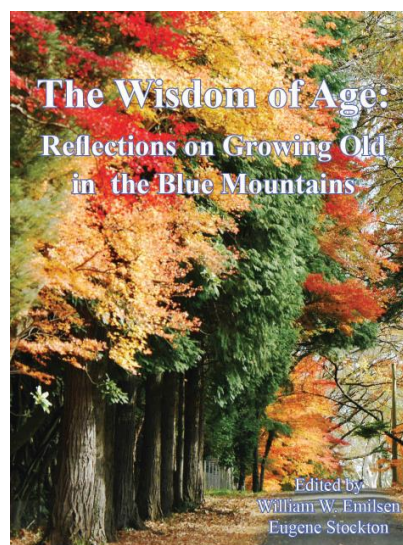
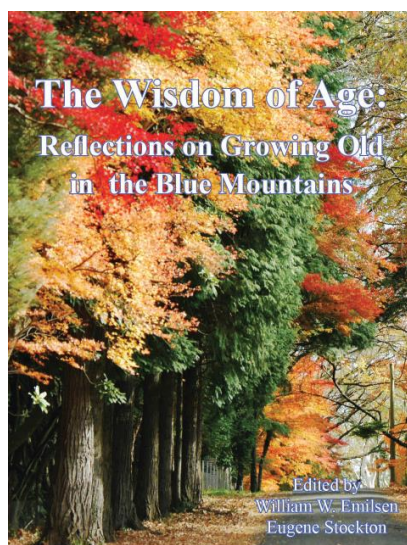
much older. It may also relate to the transfer of title of the whole property to the Carolan family.

The Editor's apologies go out to readers, researchers and family members!!!!

Book Launch: The Wisdom of Age - Reflections on Growing Old in the Blue Mountains

Edited by William W. Emilsen and Eugene Stockton

Blue Mountain Education and Research Trust, a BMACHO member, is set to undertake a book launch - *The Wisdom of Age - Reflections on Growing Old in the Blue Mountains* - by Trish Doyle MP, at Our Lady of the Nativity Primary School, 7 Somers Street, Lawson on Sunday 18th September 2022 at 2.00pm.



This inspiring collection of reflections is written by 24 people, all aged eighty years or older and living in the Blue Mountains of NSW.

They seek to foster constructive conversation about ageing and how to grow old well, they acknowledge the importance of listening to the voices of those who are making the journey into later life, and their observations refute many of the negative stereotypes that surround ageing prevalent in our society. These reflections are authentic and courageous in opening topics that are sometimes hard to speak of publicly. They include sources of meaning, faith and spirituality, creativity, social engagement as well as grief, loss, dying and death.

The reflections embrace examples of the wonderful ways in which individuals can overcome the hard things of life, leading to a new way of being.

The contributors to *The Wisdom of Age* are pioneers in gerontology, telling the world what it is really like to continue to live well into later life.

All are welcome to attend. Books will be \$25 but can be ordered at the discount price of \$20 in advance and picked up on the day or posted.

The order form and bookings can be made to BMERT:

Email: contact@bmert.com.au

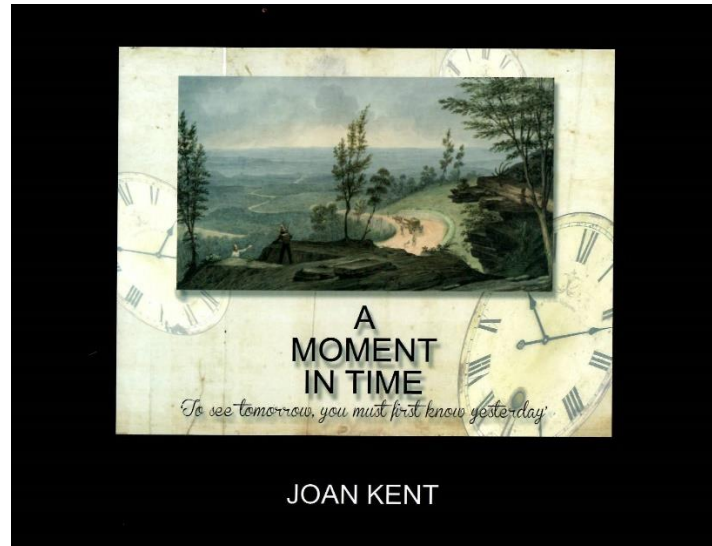
Website: www.bmert.com.au

PLEASE NOTE THE CLOSING DATE FOR ARTICLES AND NOTIFICATIONS TO THE EDITOR FOR THE NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2022 ISSUE OF *HERITAGE* is Thursday 27th October 2022

Community events & updates

“A Moment in Time” Revisited

Many will remember the *A Moment in Time* exhibition mounted by the Western Crossings Trust, an offshoot of the Hartley District Progress Association, to mark the bicentenary of the crossing of the Blue Mountains by BLW in 1813. Several thousand people viewed the exhibition where originally installed in the Historic Hartley School Hall and later as part of Bathurst’s Bicentenary celebrations in 2015.



As an element of the 2023 Australian Heritage Festival the exhibition is going to be reinstalled in the Hartley Historic Site in a joint venture between the local branch of the National Trust, the Western Crossings Trust and the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The exhibition will be widely promoted and will run for the duration of the Heritage Festival 1st April to 31st May 2023.

It is proposed that a number of ancillary events might also be mounted in the Hartley Historic Site during the term of the Heritage Festival. These could include Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage events, lectures, seminars, and displays relevant to heritage. Other complementary events that might fit within any of the various building or spaces in the Hartley Historic Site would be welcome for consideration. There are a number of spaces in the historic village that would lend themselves to audiences of as many as 60 or more attendees. Interested bodies are invited to make contact either of the following with proposals.

Contacts:

Luke Donnelley, Manager of the Hartley Historic Site: 0448 444 257

Ramsay Moodie, Event Organiser with Lithgow Branch of the National Trust: 0412 283 8

Blue Mountains Local Heritage Assistance Fund 2022

Blue Mountains City Council has secured funding from the NSW Government to continue the Local Heritage Assistance Fund into 2022. Applications will open on Wednesday, 7th September 2022.

The Fund has a total of \$15,000 to award, and individual grants will be up to \$2,500 each on a \$ for \$ basis.

This new round of funding, which will apply to the 2022/23 financial year, will contribute to the conservation of heritage buildings that are either listed as local heritage items or are



within heritage conservation areas in the Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan (BLEP). Priority would be given to minor conservation works on buildings that will provide a public benefit to the community, such as improvements to enhance the building's façade or exterior.

Consideration will also again be given to the preparation of strategic heritage documents, such as conservation management strategies or heritage interpretation plans, for important heritage buildings under threat, or in exceptional circumstances.

Projects must make a positive contribution to the building's heritage values, to support long term conservation. Grant applications are required to be supported by appropriate landowner/s consent and the permission of other interested parties.

The list of local heritage items can be found in both Schedule 5 of the Blue Mountains LEP2015 and/or Schedule 6 of the Blue Mountains LEP2005.

For more information and inquiries, application form and guidelines please contact Council on 02 4780 5000, or email heritageassistancefund@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Glenbrook Walks 2022

A reminder regarding the last two walks for the year by Glenbrook & District Historical Society. Looking forward to catching up with friends at these events!

All on Saturdays Walks led by Doug Knowles & John Dikeman

E EASY gradients. Firm underfoot. 1½ hours. Average.

M MEDIUM. Short steep sections, some rough sections. 2 hours. Average.

H HARD. Steep, rough, 4 to 6 kms. 3 hours plus. Average.

September 3: 9.00am "Warrimoo Lookout": Follow the ridge top south of Warrimoo. Panoramic views of Glenbrook Creek from Woodford to Glenbrook Gorge. **Rating: H**

September 17: 9.00am NEW WALK: "Sun Valley": Volcanic soil, giant Bluegums. Short walk along Fitzgerald's Creek. **Rating: E**

Adults: \$10

Accompanied Children under 16yrs: FREE

PLEASE NOTE: All bookings are subject to COVID-19 regulations

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL: Phone Doug on **4751 3275**

(Please allow the phone to ring longer than usual) for details on meeting place.

Good walking shoes are essential. Please bring a hat and drinking water. (No dogs please.)

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

History Council of NSW Annual History Awards

Submissions for the 2022 HCNSW Annual History Awards are now open.

The HCNSW Annual History Awards celebrate history in all its diverse forms, from the history makers and its thinkers to collective memory and multicultural history. Their awards & prizes support and acknowledge contributions towards historical practice and theory, through exploring the past to engage and inform the memories and historical narrative of our present and future communities.

Their awards foster excellence in Australian historical writing, showcase and reward best practice, and advance and promote public understanding and appreciation of history. They offer a number of prestigious annual awards and prizes totalling \$5,500 in prize money, with Honourable Mention citations also awarded where appropriate. The Awards Judging Panel consists of leading academics from NSW universities, representing our Cultural Partners, as well as a delegate of the Professional Historians Association (NSW & ACT).

Winners will be announced, and award presentations made, at an Awards ceremony in late 2022 (date to be announced).



The HCNSW History Awards submissions will close on **Saturday, 1st October 2022 at 5 pm**. Further details such as the criteria for each award and prize, as well as a link to the submissions form, can be found on the Council's website.

Contacts:

Web: www.historycouncilnsw.org.au

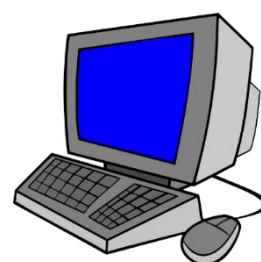
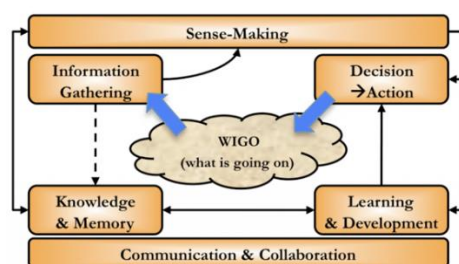
Postal: NSW History Council, PO Box R1737, Royal Exchange NSW 1225

Email: admin@historycouncilnsw.org.au

Phone: 0418 811 522

REMINDER: BMACHO Workshop: Use of Connecting Up and Google free products, managing websites generally, and grant applications

BMACHO have scheduled a workshop regarding the use of *Connecting Up* and Google free products for not-for-profit organisations and setting up a free Google website, followed by information on grant applications. The intent is to improve productivity, communication, and collaboration within your organisation while keeping you secure.



UPDATE: It is expected to be held at the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre at Katoomba on Wednesday 23rd November 2022 at 10.00am for 10.30am. The presenters will be Grant Robinson, and someone from Museums & Galleries NSW - TBC. Numbers are limited so get in early. This workshop will be partially funded with a donation from Blue Mountains City Council.

For further information contact BMACHO:

Website: <http://bluemountainsheritage.com.au>

Email: committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au

Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail Update

BMACHO continues to promote the Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail and members' upcoming events. The last of the 2019 brochures are being distributed as we speak and can still be collected at participating venues and Visitor Information Centres. The brochure is currently being reviewed and is due for reissue in early 2023.

It should be noted that due to a number of reasons such as Covid, fires and floods, some of the venues displayed on the current brochure may no longer be available. Two in particular are the Leuralla NSW Toy and Railway Museum at Leura and Ambergmere Restaurant at Little Hartley. It should also be noted that Blue Mountain Education and Research Trust (BMERT) have changed their website and email address and although this cannot be updated as yet on the brochure, it has been updated on the Trail website (see below). 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 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>



Springtime at Mt Tomah

BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

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

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

Website: <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; 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, Gay Hendriksen, Ian Milliss, Patsy Moppett, Keith Painter, Barbara Palmer, Dr Peter Rickwood, and Dr Robert Strange.

Committee: The management committee for 2022-2023 (from March 2022) is: Rod Stowe (President); Patsy Moppett (Vice President and Newsletter Editor), Fiona Burn (Secretary), Philip Hammon (Treasurer), Dick Morony (Membership Secretary/Calendar Editor/), Jan Koperberg (Public Officer/Correspondence Secretary/Events and Venue Co-ordinator), Roy Bennett.

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

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.