

Heritage

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Acknowledgement of Country

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



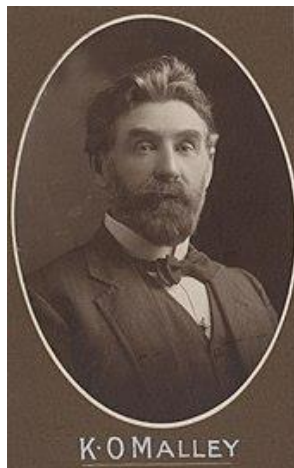
King O'Malley – he came to Australia to die

There have certainly been some colourful characters in Australian history, and none less so than the politician, insurance salesman, banker, land speculator, teetotaler and philanthropist, King O'Malley, a tall, fashionably dressed American preaching the Gospel and radical democracy, who came sweeping into Australia in 1888.

A flamboyant and controversial personality, many questioned his actions and motives. His origins were obscure, as were his reasons for coming to Australia from the USA, aged 45. He is credited (by himself) with founding the Commonwealth bank, was an advocate of the temperance movement, he supposedly instituted old age pensions and founded the transcontinental railway, claims steeped in controversy.



1888



1908



O'Malley in later years

But many of his claims remain unresolved. Originally O'Malley claimed he was born *in a room on Canadian soil* to American parents and grew up in the US, where he worked as an insurance salesman. In his own words - *he had escaped being the President of the United States of America by only 60 yards!* O'Malley gave his birth date variously as July 2, 3 or 4 in 1854 or 1858. He came to Australia in 1888 after his wife Rosy Wilmott died from tuberculosis in 1886, shortly before the birth of their first child. He said he also contracted the disease and in 1888 was given six months to live. So saying, he had come out to Australia to die!

He emigrated on the SS *Mariposa* in July 1888 to Sydney and then on to Queensland. In O'Malley's account of his arrival in Australia, he moved to Australia for health reasons, as he was supposedly suffering from tuberculosis as previously mentioned, contracted from Rosy. He declares he arrived in the country at Port Alma, Queensland, then took up residence in a cave at Emu Park where an Aboriginal man named Coowonga nursed him back to health. After walking to Rockhampton with him Coowonga disappeared into the bush and O'Malley never saw him again. After a miraculous recovery, O'Malley subsequently walked overland to Sydney and Melbourne before eventually reaching Adelaide.

In Melbourne he became very successful and wealthy selling insurance using his charm and wit, and then on to Tasmania a year later. In 1892 he was off to Western Australia and after being prosperous on the gold fields (in what capacity is not recorded), he went a year later to South Australia. In the South Australian government in 1896 he advocated women's rights and the abolition of barmaids! He sought a political career in both Tasmania and South Australia, before finally being elected to the new Federal Parliament in 1901.



The survey peg on Capitol Hill 20th February 1913



12th March 1913 – naming of Canberra



O'Malley (2nd right) 1901



Opening of Parliament 1901 – painting by Charles Nuttall



Caricature – Will Dyson

He was the one to sign off on Walter Burley Griffin as the winner of Canberra's planning and design competition, his American friend. He had not been a fan of the new Canberra site, declaring it to be a "*howling wilderness*"! He was reluctant *to establish the capital in a district which, at times is so dry that a crow desiring to put in a weekend vacation there would have to carry its water-bag.....*

Once he was Minister for Home Affairs, however, O'Malley became a convert, likening the Canberra site to the promised land. O'Malley was involved in many aspects of Canberra's

formation as the national capital, falling out with many political associates including Billy Hughes and Prime Minister Andrew Fisher along the way.

To be eligible for the Federal House of Assembly he had to be a British citizen, but he had been loudly claiming his American citizenship up to this point. This is where his claim to be born in Canada came in. Soon after his election a man who had known him in the US, William Moorehead, claimed that O'Malley was an American citizen who had fled the country after embezzling funds. The subsequent court case was a win for O'Malley, but it aroused suspicion that a financial scandal had led him to emigrate.

It would appear more likely that he was born in the USA of Irish immigrant parents, his Christian name being King for his mother's maiden name. However, his parents' origins cannot be verified, and no birth certificate exists for himself. He claimed he had a brother and sister, but no record has been found. He claimed his parents were Irish born and in later life claimed they were American born.

He claimed his date of birth was 4th of July, but it was actually the 2nd, and his later claim for the 4th was to reinforce his patriotic claims. His father was killed in the Civil War, and he was sent to live with a banker uncle in New York, for whom he worked, and then fell out with when O'Malley was 22, the uncle saying *there is not room for the two of us in this business*. About 1880 he went into a successful insurance career. He also became involved with fundamentalist religious groups, founding the Waterlily Rockbound Church – he was their first and only bishop – and complete with details of miracles and a beautiful young acolyte Rosy Wilmot, whom he claimed to have married. He worked “*miracles*” by getting signs from heaven as coloured lights, set off by an accomplice on a nearby hilltop. Emulating Moses, O'Malley ascended the hill and returned, with stone tablets engraved with tenets of his religion. O'Malley was forced to flee when his accomplice revealed their scam.

Claiming to be a widower since 1886, he then later married Amy Garrod (Horton) in Australia in 1910, supposedly being 51 years old at the time. After about 1940 O'Malley began to exaggerate his age again, claiming a birth year of 1854. This was when he also began to celebrate his birthday on 4th July, coinciding with Independence Day in the United States. His private diaries record that he personally celebrated his birthday on 2nd July until 1947, but then apparently shifted the date by two days to emphasize his American origins. As a result, O'Malley's obituaries listed his date of birth as 4th July 1854. He died in Melbourne in 1953 aged 99, the last of those 1901 parliamentarians. He spent his retirement defending his legacy.



O'Malley



Amy O'Malley



O'Malley

The press had a field day documenting his antics and his flamboyant ways. The Huon Times in 1916 records a reporter saying *we would strongly advise him, whenever, he talks to have someone by him with a gag to pop into his mouth at the first sign of his tongue playing up on him. We are afraid Mr O'Malley would be gagged most of the time. But that would be a good thing for him and not a bad thing for the country.*

The Adelaide Observer printed the following in 1897:

King O'Malley
Oh, Malley, king of wind and sound
Of tinkling brass and cymbal
How dost thou love to hear thy tongue
When rattling off its jingle.

Bereft of sense you prattle on
In choicest Yank call'd lingo
You howl and whine and snarl about
Like poisoned-baited dingo.

Friend of the barmaid, shop-girl too
You posed for days and nights
And now a commonwealth reveal
In socialistic lights.

And then you want your vapid talk
More lengthily reported
Pity it was that ever you
From Canada trans-ported.

So get thee gone – don't live on us
You Yankee sort of stumper
A parasite of some such breed
As microbe, mite, or jumper.

Howler

The Kyogle Examiner reported the following in 1914:

It has been discovered that King O'Malley, the very loud imported Federal politician with the hat that made him look like a mosquito sheltering under a mushroom, ran this country into a bill for £375 for photographs of himself, assisted by a few other people, laying the foundation stone of the Australian capital at Canberra. There have been two men with astonishing hats in Federal politics – Knox, whose title was a blot and a nightmare, and O'Malley whose headgear was partly a bush fire and partly a Mexican upheaval with a faint suggestion of the recent Bulgarian war. They were both unsatisfactory.

O'Malley called himself the "wild Irishman" (was he American, Irish or Canadian, or just proud of all his heritage origins!?!), and his legacy includes a Canberran suburb named after him and a pub, the pub being a dig at his controversial alcohol ban in Canberra in the early years. He and his wife later established a scholarship to support students studying "domestic economy" (Home Economics).

Having extensively researched this colourful figure, and finding such a variety of opinions, versions, stories and anecdotes, it is difficult to know what to believe and what to disregard. The man himself appeared to be full of contradictions, but also too was the press reporting throughout his life. He certainly upset many people, both friends and foes, and dabbled in a wide range of issues for good or bad. He is possibly one of those intelligent people who had a lot of potential but was his own worst enemy in how he went about things.



Burnie, Tasmania



Emu Park, Queensland

A memorial exists to him at Emu Park in Queensland, and also at Burnie in Tasmania. For all his antics, upon his death Parliament diplomatically stated *“that his name will go down in history as that of a man who was associated, not only with the physical development of Australia, but also with the growth of our spirit of nationhood, and who established the great bank which has played a notable part in the efforts of Australia, not only during World War I and World War II, but also in other periods of our history.”* Patsy Moppett

References: The references to this article are listed in a separate document issued with this Newsletter.

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Food for thought Editor's note

It is the silly season, Christmas, summer holidays - time to relax and let our hair down! It has been a trying year again, although the COVID situation has eased. Now we deal with rain, rain rain!!!

This weather has implications for heritage in the upkeep and maintenance of heritage premises, and attention to the management of storm water and drainage around buildings and sites. Ongoing monitoring is required if this weather is to continue. However, the heritage grants programs available from local government organisations can assist in this matter, especially for small projects. State Heritage Register properties also have funding available to them from the State government. All of these opportunities should be explored and taken advantage of where possible.

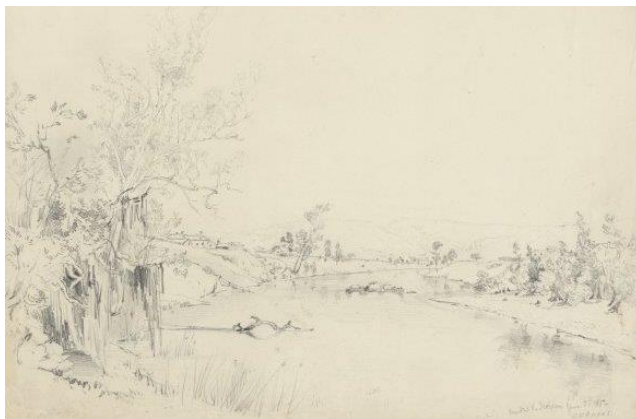
It is also a time to look back over the previous 12 months and remember our achievements in regard to heritage conservation and preservation, networking and community engagement, to review the processes to see how we can improve our operations over the next 12 months and seek opportunities to learn from others. BMACHO is looking forward to its Bi Annual Conference in May, for which further information is available later in this Newsletter.

The main articles in *Heritage* this time look at some characters in our history in King O'Malley and John Britty North, and examine some of their lesser known activities, and how they have affected our heritage.

History on the ground looks at the old *Loggie* at Emu on the Nepean River. What a legacy the site has, from the first crossing of the river until to today! It lies at a critical place on the river where crossings were undertaken from day one due to the ford, and then the use of the punt/ferry through the various bridges which came and went, to the Victoria and Regentville Bridges, and the pedestrian bridge we see now. The site's history and the stories of those who passed through it provide a window into the development of the whole colony. I would like to thank Dr Peter Rickwood, Dr Rob Strange and Phil Hammon for their suggestions that I investigate these three subjects, because it has been a learning experience for myself, as I hope it will be for our readers.

The Inn at Emu Ford

Following exploration in the vicinity of the Nepean River by Lieutenant Dawes and Captain Tench in 1789, Governor Phillip announced in 1806 that no one was permitted to cross the river. In a few years however, Emu Ford became the principle crossing place on the Nepean River for all traffic heading west, having the low water level ford and also a government ferry service (from as early as 1815) operated by William Martin who also provided refreshments, but how he did this is not known. It was long before any bridges were constructed. In the early years Sir John Jamison also entertained travellers, providing accommodation and service at his property *Regentville*, built in 1826. Prior to this he provided accommodation to others in his original house, on land granted to his father Thomas in 1805.



Emu Ford – NLA



Emu Ford – Lewin 1815-1816



Emu Ford 1948

Many people began to build little humpies along the river front near the punt and the ford. Further back the town of Penrith had its beginnings. No inn was available on the river banks before Cox's party went through, and it remained this way until the substantial two storey convict built inn was constructed on the banks of the Nepean River. It was built on land that

had been granted to Daniel Woodriff in 1804. A Jacob Josephson leased land from Woodriff and at one stage Josephson was behind in his rent. Woodriff relented, saying that he could not push the point because Josephson “..... *has built and nearly furnished a handsome two Storey house on the premises, which he calls by the name of Emu Ford Hotel..... he has greatly enhanced the part he has, and brought with him a respectable tenantry...*”

Close alongside the site of the building, passed the original western road constructed by William Cox in 1814, and a year later Governor Macquarie and Elizabeth traversed the road and proclaimed it officially open. They availed themselves of John Jamison’s hospitality. Similarly in 1819, did Jean Rene Constant Quoy, Charles Gaudichard and Alphonse Pellion, stay with John Jamison. In 1822 Elizabeth Hawkins makes no mention of an inn on the riverbank but sheltered in a hut whilst waiting for horses and a cart to carry them across the river. In the same year Judge Barron Field makes no mention of an inn at all either, and neither does Rene Primevere Lesson in 1824. Soon afterwards the inn was built and then in 1835 James Backhouse breakfasted at “*a respectable inn*” and spoke of the Jewish father-in-law of the landlord of the inn, who provided accommodation free of all charges, as Backhouse and his companion had come from London to preach the gospel. This would have been Jacob Josephson. In 1836 Charles Darwin stayed at “.... *a very comfortable inn at Emu Ferry*” Louisa Anne Meredith made use of the inn by the river in 1839.

It was in an ideal location for travellers to the west in its proximity and association with the ferry, and then upon their return to Sydney. It was a meeting place for both white and indigenous people, with corroborees being held on the land near the inn.



The Emu Ford Inn 1914

The inn built by Jacob Josephson in 1825-26 commenced trading in 1826 as the *Emu Ford Inn* (sometimes *Wilson’s Inn*) on the eastern bank. He provided food, drink and limited accommodation. Jacob Josephson came to Australia in 1817 and carried on a business in Sydney as a jeweller. Josephson also constructed the *Governor Gipps Inn* at Penrith in 1831. He owned a number of properties in Elizabeth Street, Sydney, granted by Governor Bourke in 1834 and 1835. He was a popular figure, being generous to all. He made a fortune, lost it all and then made it up again. His son Joshua was Lord Mayor of Sydney in 1848 and later on Judge Josephson. The Inn at the Nepean was taken over by his soon to be son-in-law Charles Abraham Wilson in 1827, newly arrived in the colony, hence *Wilson’s Inn*. Under Wilson it was also known as *Wilson’s Emu Ferry Inn*, as he ran both the inn and the ferry. When the ferry could not operate due to high water levels he benefited from custom which needed accommodation whilst waiting for the availability of the ferry. Charles Wilson owned the inn and was certainly the publican there until the late 1840’s. With a name change in 1830-31 by him, his liquor licence issued was to it as the *Pineapple Inn*. From 1832 to 1839 the licence was issued to him as the *Emu Ford Inn*.



Governor Bourke Inn 1962 - demolished in 1967

By the 1830's Jacob Josephson still had an interest in the place, with liquor licences being issued to Charles as the *Governor Bourke Inn*. Josephson died in 1845 at his home in Sydney, *Enmore House*. Interestingly when Colonial Mundy accompanied Governor Fitzroy on a trip through the region in 1847, he describes the premises as the *Emu Ferry Inn*, and the party availed themselves of the punt to cross the river.

In about 1850 when Charles' brother Henry A Wilson took over management, it was still known as the *Governor Bourke Hotel*. Henry Wilson had come down from Lawson and his operation of the original *Blue Mountain Inn*. He operated the Penrith premises and licences were issued to him until at least 1860, when it was still the *Governor Bourke Hotel*.

To put the ferry into context, the first bridge across the river erected in 1850 was to be utterly destroyed in the big flood of August 1857. Henry Wilson was one of the original five shareholders who financed the building of the first bridge, his wife being the first lady to cross the bridge, and meetings held by the Penrith Nepean Bridge Company were held at the *Inn*.

Another bridge was constructed, only to be again swept away by a flood in 1800. Now there are two substantial bridges side-by-side, being the Victoria Bridge of 1934 and its associated rail bridge of 1907, together with the modern Regentville Bridge, and the old-time ferry from which the inn derived its name is but a faint memory. In between disasters, a ferry of sorts was still resorted to.

The bridges withstood the 1867 flood, which was known to rise to the top balcony of the inn, with the original line of riverbank being swept away. After the flood Henry Wilson returned to the *Blue Mountain Inn* in 1867. The 1850's and 1860's saw a huge increase in traffic of all descriptions moving through the area to the gold fields, which would have provided great amounts of custom to the *Inn*.

In about 1865 it was apparently known as the *George IV Inn*, although this is unconfirmed. It may have also been the *Squires Inn* on the river, in the 1870's.

In 1882 the publican was John George Thurston, who called the place the *Riverside Inn*. Thurston died soon after taking over, intestate and insolvent, and the place was managed by his father-in-law TR Smith for a time and then by the Bennetts. It ceased to hold a license in 1889.

In 1915 until at least 1925-6 the *Riverside Inn* was operated by Albert Bennett and his father Henry. Following the closure of the *Inn* they had occupied the building for some 20 years, operating motorboats on the river.

In researching the history of this site and many other inns in the region a number of things make it difficult to track accurately the chronology of the places, in particular in regard to place names. Inn keepers were notorious for changing the names of the establishments, as can be illustrated above, and publicans moved from one premises to another, often taking the names and then licenses with them.



Log Cabin 1935-40



Log Cabin 1940

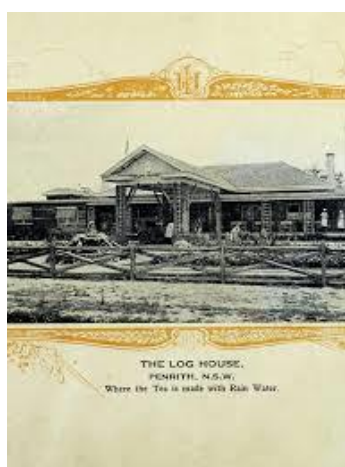


Fine riverside dining



Local leisure tours

A new building was then constructed in the American style by Sir Joynton Smith, Lord Mayor of Sydney, who had interests in the Carrington Hotel, the Hydro Majestic and the Mt Druitt Imperial, in order that he might obtain *a decent cuppa!* and became known as *The Log House*. It was immediately to the north of the former inn. The architect was Mr Buchanan and the builder was Mr G Lambert. It was officially opened in December 1925 by the Mayor of Penrith. In his address Joynton Smith spoke of the strength of the river as an asset to Penrith, as a hub for rowers using the river. The old *Riverside Inn* adjoining became the domestic quarters for the new Hotel.



Joynton Smith's Log House posters

The Log House was then purchased from Joynton Smith by Cecil Hay in 1938, who applied to Council to lease the adjoining land to establish lawns and gardens to compliment the Hotel. This building was renovated and extended in 1939 by Hay, whose successful tenderer was Mr Little who had been a contractor on the Savoy Theatre at Katoomba. In the same year it obtained a liquor license. *The Log House* was renown for its music and supper dances, the ballroom and afternoon teas. In this year the anniversary memorial to Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth located in Memorial Avenue in front of *The Log House* was unveiled, and the preceding luncheon was held at *The Log House*. Many different community groups utilised *The Log House* for functions including the Red Cross, the CWA, Penrith hospital and the RSA (RSL).

In 1939 when the liquor licence was transferred from St Mary's *Railway Hotel* to the *Log House* by one Allan McPhee, Hay was the owner of the Log House, but McPhee was the licensee. This is where the history of inns in general can become confusing. The owner of the establishment was not always the publican.



The Log Cabin – McKittrick's 1950's

During World II, soldiers from the local barracks frequented the premises which had become *The Log Cabin* and were known as 'The Log Cabin Brigade'. When it was time for them to sail to England, they took *The Log Cabin* flag with them, flying it off the back of their ship *Queen Mary*. The hotel slowly declined over the war years, and in 1955 Frank and Doreen McKittrick did extensions and constructed the motel. The adjoining old *Riverside Inn* (*Governor Bourke Inn*) had become the staff accommodation for the hotel, but in 1967 that was demolished. In 1986 it was the *Log Cabin Hotel*, as many of us remember it.



A place of pride prior to the 2012 fire



The Log Cabin Hotel – fire in 2012

Sadly the *Loggy*, as it was fondly known by locals, an iconic Penrith landmark, was destroyed by fire on 9th March 2012. The site then sat derelict until 2018 when it became the work area for the construction of the new footbridge over the Nepean River.



Inside the new Log Cabin Hotel

A new *Log Cabin Hotel* premises adjacent to the footbridge was constructed in 2021. Supposedly the architects used the neighbouring Victoria Bridge, visible from the upstairs, as an architectural influence, with its heavy stone base, steel beams and trusses, quite an industrial building as compared with the romance of the *Log Cabin Hotel* and its predecessors. It has also been built to meet modern fire safety standards.

The developers declare that the completed *Log Cabin Hotel* symbolises the restoration of a beloved piece of the Penrith built environment. As the revived hotel begins its next chapter, its construction will serve as a reminder of the impressive legacy of the former buildings on and near the site.

Patsy Moppett

Editor's note: This subject was exceedingly difficult to research and there are still many gaps in the story. One can trace inns through a variety of sources, none of which, except perhaps liquor licenses to 1860, are definitive. There are many resources available, but consistency of detail, and accuracy of newspaper reporting was to be treated with care. The proviso was always that the owner and the publican were not necessarily the same person, and colloquial names for the place confused the issue even more. I have attempted to step my way carefully through the maze of information available and hope I have not made too many inaccurate assumptions!

References: The references to this article are listed in a separate document issued with this Newsletter.

John Britty North at Hill End

Background: John Britty North is called the "*Father of Katoomba*" and is credited with the opening up of the Katoomba coal mine, which has been well documented. He is best known for his activities in and around Katoomba, but a little known fact is that about 1872 he and his family also had a business and land interests at Hill End in the western gold fields. John Britty North was born to John Britty North and Mary Willie on the family estate at Taunton, Somerset England in 1831. He was baptised at St Mary Magdalene at Taunton in August of that year. They lived at Cheapside at the time where his father was a spirit merchant.

JB North senior was born in 1800 in London, his father also being John North. He had married Mary Willie in 1828.

At age 9 John junior was still at school in Taunton, but by 1851 the family were living at St Pancras in London. By age 13 he was working for Self, Coles & Co as a warehouseman, where he remained for 7 years.

At age 21 he sailed on 21st October 1851 on the barque *Senator* of London, Alfred King, master, from Portsmouth to Port Jackson arriving on 16th February 1852.

In 1853 he returned to London to purchase goods for his company North, Rutherford & Co., merchants. The following year he returned to Sydney in November on the *Windsor*, bringing members of his family as steerage passengers.

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <i>St Mary Magdalene Taunton</i> in the County of <i>Somerset</i> in the Year 18 <i>53</i>						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
18 <i>53</i> <i>August 31</i> No. 1073.	<i>John</i> <i>Britty</i>	<i>John</i> <i>Britty</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>Chap</i> <i>side</i>	<i>Spirit</i> <i>Merchant</i>	<i>H Bower</i>

Baptismal record – JBN, Somerset



St Mary Magdalene, Taunton

In February 1855 he married Clarissa Mary Hack of Sydney, a niece of entrepreneur David Jones. Clarissa and John had nine children: John George, Ernest, Clara Minnie, Ellen Mary, Lilla Mander, Alfred Herbert, Emily, Ethel Susie and Lucy Grace.

John left North, Rutherford & Co. later that year just before it was declared bankrupt and was living in Newcastle when his eldest son John was born. Their second son Ernest was also born in Newcastle later in 1858 but survived only a year. By the time of Ernest's death the family were back in Sydney at Chippendale. Clara, Ellen and Lilla were all born at Chippendale, Lilla in 1865. In 1868 the family were in Brisbane where Alfred was born, but by the time of Emily's birth in 1870 they were back in Sydney. The remaining children were born in Sydney.

Up until and during the family's time in Queensland John was a commercial traveler, and then a wholesale wine and spirit merchant, initially with G. S. Leathes & Co. That company dealt in a range of food stuffs including tea, coffee and sugar, as well as other merchandise including candles, soap, and tobacco. He had branched out on his own in 1864, working from Wynyard Street in Sydney, and in 1867 he also commenced operations as an auctioneer and commission agent.

COFFEE, Plantation, Manila, in bond, and duty paid.
G. S. LEATHES and CO., 69, Market-street.

TEAS, in chests, halves, and boxes, congou, twanky, best
brands. G. S. LEATHES and CO.

SUGARS.—Cossipore, Mauritius, white China, Java,
loaf, and Company's. G. S. LEATHES and CO.

SAGO.—Flour, Sago, Arrowroot, Pearl Barley, Huntley
and Palmer's Biscuits. G. S. LEATHES and CO.

NUTS, Walnuts, Barcelona, Brazil, soft shell Al-
monds. G. S. LEATHES and CO., 69, Market-st.

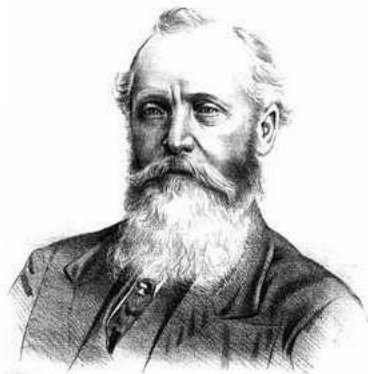
FLOUR.—Chilian, Adelaide, and colonial. G. S.
LEATHES and CO., 69, Market-street.

Leathes advertising 1861

In 1871 he was bankrupt but had regained his stability by the following year. In 1872 he joined the Sydney Stock Exchange soon after its inception. In 1870 he had developed interests in the Blue Mountains and had opened up a number of small coal mines in south Katoomba. His Katoomba Coal Mine was registered in 1878, and also formed the Australian Kerosene Oil and Mineral Co. Ltd. It leased property in the Jamieson Valley and worked it successfully with T. S. Mort's Glen Shale mine on the western side of the Megalong ridge, which North later bought in 1890. His mining ventures in the Blue Mountains tapered off in the 1890's as they became unprofitable.

North's involvement in the community at Katoomba was extensive, including being an alderman for a short time, chairman of the Katoomba Progress Committee, and he was keen to develop the scenic beauty of the mountains. He became trustee of several of the parks and fought for the establishment of the Municipality and the public school. He was termed the "*Father of Katoomba*".

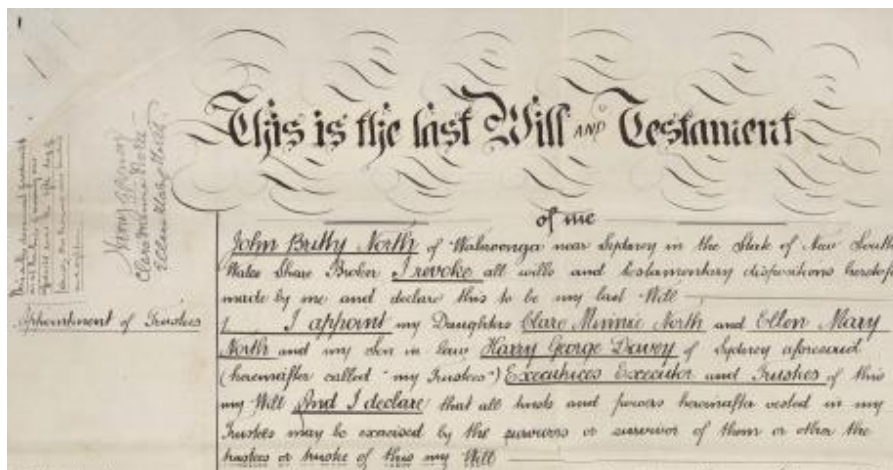
North then operated as a stock and share broker and colliery agent for many mining companies, including Joadja Creek shale oil mine near Mittagong, and Irondale coal mine near Portland. together with his sons John and Alfred as partners, until his death in 1917. He died at his home *Lynton*, in Lane Cove Road, Wahroonga. Clarissa had died in October 1906. They are buried at Gore Hill Cemetery.



John Britty North



Lane Cove Rd, Wahroonga 1908



JB North – extract from will

At Hill End: One little known aspect of his life was that amongst his mining interests was the ownership of property at the mining town of Hill End in the central west of NSW. In researching the Katoomba Coal Mine and investigating an old ropeway that that was to be restored at Hill End, historian Phil Hammon discovered that JBN and various members of his family were listed as landholders there! The family operated an auctioneer's business and store and had association with several land parcels in the town. Phil sought the assistance of local historians and discovered that in the Hill End & Tambaroora Register of Houses & Land for 1872 the following properties were listed:

- John B North – ¼ acre on Reef Street; ¼ acre corner Ophir and Alexander Streets Lot 15;
- John George North (age 17) – ¼ acre on Reef Street; ¼ acre corner Ophir and Alexander Streets Lot 15;
- Alfred North (age 4) and John Williams – ¼ acre allotment between Beard & Thomas Streets adjoining No. 5 – slaughter yard;

- Clarissa North – ¼ acre lot near the NE corner of Section 29 (store abandoned); ¼ acre lot in Havilah Street near the rear of Mr Stuart's store (residence);
- Clara Minnie (age 12) – Lot 6 Section 31

Some other lots were also owned and/or leased in association with other family members eg. Weynton and Mander. Obviously, his whole family supported him in the venture.

In 1872 John and Clarissa were listed as storekeepers, running the *Beehive Auction Rooms* in Clark Street, and Clarissa appears to have a dwelling in the town. It is almost certain that they never lived there, and their association was only short lived, being about 1872-73.

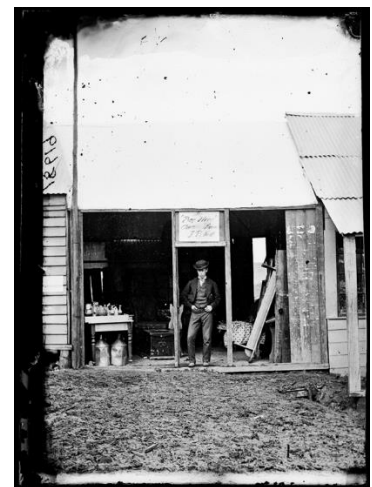
In 2013, members of the Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group were asked about the *Beehive Auction Rooms* by another inquirer and its location in Clarke Street, Hill End, so the group spent some time researching the store. There was not much to go on however with a bit of detective work they were able, with the use of the zoom facility on the Holtermann photos on the State Library website, to actually identify the location and also the surrounding businesses. Starting with a photo of the front of the shop (with John George North standing in front, age 17) they knew that the shop was somewhere in Clarke Street.

By looking at other photos of buildings in the streetscape of Clarke Street taken by Holtermann, they discovered that it was situated on the eastern side of Clarke Street in between Thomas Ackland's second furniture store and English's Tailor shop and opposite On Gay's shop. *The Beehive* had a canvas roof and a long vertical flagpole to the immediate left side of the building.

This location has been confirmed, with Ackland's store showing the white sign on the right hand side, appearing on the left of the photo of the *Beehive Auction Rooms*. You can see the small shop, squeezed in between Ackland's Furniture shop and Mr English's Tailor shop on the left in the view of Clark St. below, looking south from Tambaroora Road. Just look for the tall pole.



Ackland's store – see flag pole to right



Beehive Auction Rooms with flag pole



Clark Street east – Beehive Auction Rooms is the thin third shop from the left

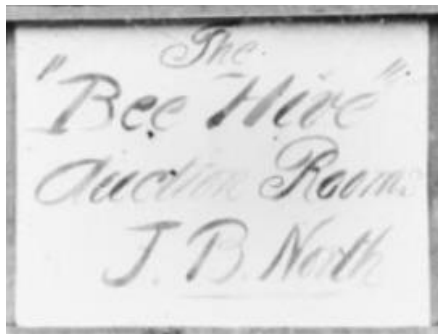




Clark Street 1872

The winter shot above, complete with snow, also confirms the location. The blurring at the top of the flagpole was probably a flag moving as these photos were taken over a short period of time and movement then blurred the image. Once the researchers zoomed in on the finer detail, they could see that:

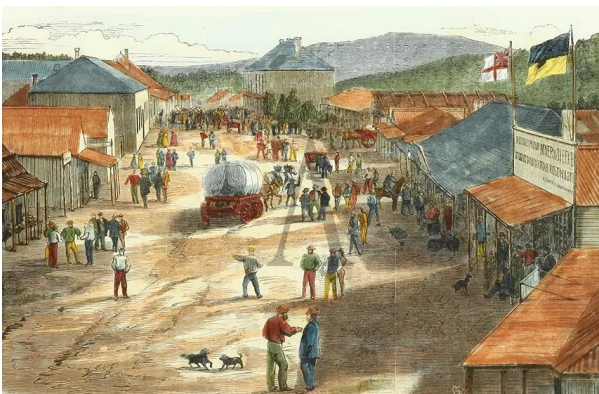
- First building on left hand side of image is Mrs Helene Peterson's Colonial Wine & Coffee Rooms.
- Second building on left is Thomas Ackland's second furniture store.
- Third building on left is J.B.North's *Beehive Auction Rooms*.
- Fourth building on left is English's tailor store.
- Fifth building on left is Edward Vines *Rose & Crown Hotel* (see small lamp house).
- Sixth building on left is Restaurant & Cafe (later the *Sydney Hotel*) and later still Polly Trestail's lolly and pie shop.
- Seventh building on left is P. McGinley's Tobacconist.



Auction Room signage



John George North



Clark Street - Painting by Samuel Calvert



Clark Street, 1872



JB North & family

Clark Street was generally considered as the main street where most business occurred. However, it was not the sealed road we know today. And businesses were sprinkled along many of the other streets, between the several churches and other public buildings. A walk around Hill End today shows no signs of the old store. The site however, can be easily located utilizing the above research material from the Gathering Group back in 2013. North's store was apparently there in 1872-3, when he leased a small site from Thomas Ackland, who owned the adjoining furniture store. Ackland's land is identified on the Parish Map for Hill End, as Lots 9, 10, 11 & 12 Section 17. The *Beehive* was probably on Lot 10, opposite On Gay's store in Clark Street.



Northey's store today – the Beehive store would have been where the driveway is

However, on the site now is a two storey shop built by Robert Northey in late 1873, who by then owned all 4 lots. All of the old shops were therefore demolished to permit the construction of Northey's store.

The Hill End & Tambaroora Register of Houses & Land also mentioned that Clarissa North owned an allotment behind Mr Stuart's shop. Mr Stuart's shop was the Great Western Store, which still stands.

In addition, Clara North (although only aged 12!) had Lot 6 Section 31 on the corner of High and Beard Streets, registered in her name.

The gold rush of the 1850's peaked between 1870 and 1873, and with the influx of wealth into the town, many of the old shanties which had maintained the inhabitants for 20 years were wiped away, to be replaced by more substantial buildings such as Northey's store, Hosie's store, the Royal Hotel and the numerous other two storey hotels that were erected, particularly along Clark Street.



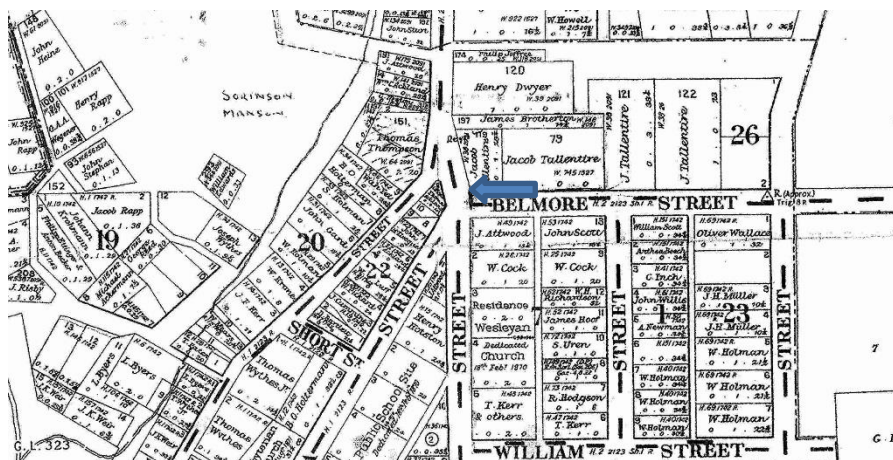
Gt Western Store, Clark Street – then and now



Clark Street 1950 – car in front of Northey's store



Clara's lot on High St – Lot 6 cnr of Beard St



Beehive Auction Room site on Clark Street, Hill End

Patsy Moppett

References: The references to this article are listed in a separate document issued with this Newsletter.

PLEASE NOTE THE CLOSING DATE FOR ARTICLES AND NOTIFICATIONS TO THE EDITOR FOR THE JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2023 ISSUE OF HERITAGE is Wednesday 28th December 2022

Community events & updates

Mt Victoria Historical Society Museum

Concern has recently been expressed by the Museum group in regard to the future of the Museum in light of a request from railway management agents JLL (Jones Lang Lasalle) to vacate the premises by the end of the year or by about 10th January 2023.

It seems their Disaster Management Plan will not be able to cater for this event! Also the rail authority has received the Museum's annual rental paid in October, as per their Agreement, but this seemed unimportant to them as far as the twelve months' notice in regard to changes to the tenancy is concerned.



Mt Victoria Railway Station – Historical Society Museum collection

No particular comment had been received by the Museum from the rail authority TAHE (Transport Asset Holding Entity of NSW formerly Rail Corp NSW) at the writing of this article.

After an anxious few days, the Museum committee was able to establish that the building is to undergo repainting of all rooms - walls and ceilings. No mention has been made of asbestos, and no time frame or work schedule has been provided for the work.

The Museum committee has had a number of meetings to discuss the matter, and to establish a way forward. It is accepted that some work is to be carried out by the contractor, but it is hoped that the work can be without broad vacation of the premises, but localized - clearance of relevant rooms, areas etc as required.

Discussions have also been held in regard to suggestions around alternate premises, cost and labour, the removal, storage and return of furniture, finance to pack, transport, unpack etc and then the reverse process upon return to the premises. It is hoped that complete vacation of the premises can be avoided.

The Agents and Painting Project Manager intend to do a room by room walk-around for a more detailed view of the work and implications.

It is hoped that TAHE can view the Museum not as a commercial entity but a regional cultural group, with another 40 years occupation.

The Museum group simply need now to step back and work out all the action options available to them and seek further clarification from TAHE.

See future BMACHO Newsletters for updates, or visit the Museum website at:

www.mountvictoriamuseum.info

Christmas at Valley Heights

Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum will again hold their Christmas events and are currently preparing their program.

The usual Open Day activities will take place on the weekends of 3-4 December and 10-11 December, and will include a sausage sizzle BBQ, the shop and exhibits, model railways and train rides.

Assistance is currently being sought in regard to setting up the arrangements for the Open Day. The tasks include:

- Working in the shop, including food service and barista
- Checking visitors' tickets before entry to the Museum
- Marshalling visitors about the Depot
- Chatting about the roundhouse or exhibits
- Running one of our two model railways
- Parking attendants



If you can assist in the lead up to or on the day of the events, please let the group know as soon as possible so that a roster can be put together.

Email: publicity@valleyheightsrailmuseum.info

Friends of the Paragon

Further to the article in the BMACHO May-June issue of *Heritage*, it is now advised that the Friends of the Paragon (FoTP) have a new website <https://fotpwebproject.weebly.com/>



Also, a petition has been initiated to encourage the owner of *The Paragon* building to initiate the necessary maintenance of this State Heritage listed property. From FoTP website:

The Paragon is suffering from neglect. It is being damaged by vandalism and water penetration. See images below of this iconic restaurant in its prime and in recent years. An on-line petition has been established to register concern at the current situation.

Support for the petition is encouraged and may be accessed via the QR code or link:

<https://www.change.org/p/the-paragon-in-katoomba-is-in-peril>

The Paragon is not beyond restoration, but the need for action is now urgent. Help save this iconic building!

Treeline Lurline Project

This project involves a group of civic minded and concerned people working together to create a landmark boulevard of trees, seasonal colour, heritage, art & story along Lurline Street, Katoomba, linking the town centre to the Three Sisters tourism hub, reinstating its original significance to the town's streetscape.



Today this historic gateway and thoroughfare is run-down with broken kerbs, blocked drains and cracked and patched footpaths. There are no seats, drinking fountains, bins or summer shade. There is a battalion of poles and wires. The grand avenue of trees planted in 1905 was removed around 1960.

Lurline Street is in urgent need of renewal and revitalisation, of less asphalt and more beauty, comfort, art and story, and local residents and businesses have banded together to work with governments to make this happen.

The Treeline Lurline volunteer working group was established in 2019 and auspiced by the Katoomba Chamber of Commerce & Community. Their partners include Blue Mountains Tourism, National Trust (NSW) Blue Mountains branch and the Upper Mountains Arborist Alliance. In March 2022, the Australian Government became a partner with its Black Summer Bushfires Grant to Katoomba Chamber for Stage One of the project. As the public landowner, Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC) then also became a partner and the project manager.

The Steering Committee was formalised in July 2022 through a Memorandum of Understanding with BMCC. It is constituted of 14 volunteer community members, almost all from the original working group established in 2019. It also includes two senior Council executives and the contracted project manager.

For further information about the Project and how you can become involved, contact Treeline Lurline on Facebook or Instagram, or Katoomba Chamber on Facebook or the Katoomba Chamber of Commerce directly.

Their new website is at www.treelinelurline.org

Lithgow Council Local Heritage Grants 2022 Stage 2

Stage 2 of the Lithgow Local Heritage Grants Program, which has been jointly funded in partnership with the NSW Government, aims to assist property owners in undertaking minor works to preserve local and state-listed heritage buildings and places as identified under Schedule 5 of the Council's Local Environmental Plan 2014.

Council has allocated \$10,000 in grant funding for approved projects. Property owners who meet the assessment criteria may be eligible for between \$500 and \$2,000 funding on a dollar-for-dollar basis for small projects. If successful, payment of the grant would be provided upon completion of the work.



Mayor Maree Stratham has said: *Lithgow has a rich and diverse history which is widely recognised and celebrated by our community. For anyone in the community who has been considering undertaking a small project to help preserve or maintain these heritage items that are representative of Lithgow's past, there is no better time than now.*

Council is encouraging landowners to apply for a grant to undertake minor projects such as maintenance works eg. painting, external fabric restoration, repairing walls, verandahs, fencing, windows or roof plumbing and drainage. The funding could also be used to restore grave markers in local cemeteries.

Projects must be of a minor nature and not require development consent, and all relevant documentation should be submitted by 4th November 2022.

For further information about the grant, including the Heritage Grant Guidelines eligibility criteria and application form:

Website: <https://council.lithgow.com/development/lithgow-local-heritage-grants-2022/>

Phone: 02 6354 9999

Email: Council@lithgow.nsw.gov.au

BMACHO at Linden Observatory

The BMACHO Committee held its recent October meeting at the Linden Observatory, which was followed up by a tour of the facility by site manager Ian Bridges. The following review of the visit is provided by Jan Koperberg:

Ian gave us a very comprehensive tour of the Linden Observatory, Ken Beames' workshop and several items that Ken made in the 1970s. Inside the Observatory is stored the original 24" (61cm) telescope which Ken Beames started constructing at his workshops in Five Dock, before moving to Linden. It was housed in the original Observatory. Currently there is a 76cm reflector telescope, which has been built on site, housed in the sliding roof observatory. This telescope can virtually be moved easily with one finger. The dome of the observatory is currently unable to turn, and Ian was unable to open the panel on the dome, on the day, due to bad weather. The workshop in the building at the back of the observatory is as it was when Ken Beames died in 1989. All the machinery, nuts, bolts, and the smell of oil is very apparent when you walk in. It is like walking back in time. In a room out the back is a planetarium instrument that Ken Beames was building, but never finished. Ian Bridges worked for Ken Beames from 1979 when Ken was already 79.



A captivated audience



Linden Observatory

Ian said he walked in and asked for a job and Ken told him to watch closely while he made a brass candlestick. He then handed a piece of brass to Ian and said, "I have made one, now you make one". Ian clicked the machinery into all the right grooves and made the



Workshop



Inside the dome

candlestick and Ken said, "you have a job". Ian said if he had made a mistake he would not have been hired. Ian now has a position with Planet Ark, but his heart and soul is in the Linden Observatory and the legacy of Ken Beames.

Jan Koperberg

Gang Gang Gallery Events

BMACHO member the Gang Gang Gallery at Lithgow has just released details regarding events to be held over the coming weeks.



This includes exhibitions, workshops, conversation, art and music. Submissions of artworks are also being called for their annual Christmas Art Fair.

Staff have looked back over the previous months of COVID impact and decided that we should never take anything for granted. Therefore, their range of activities caters for many community interests and sectors.

Visit their website at www.gggallery.com.au or email at info@gggallery.com.au

Visit the gallery at 206 Main Street, Lithgow.

Note: Christmas Trading - last trading day FRIDAY 23RD DECEMBER 2022.

The Gallery will remain closed from Friday 23rd December 2022 due to essential renovations as a result of the flooding that occurred in the Main Street of Lithgow late February 2022, reopening 2023 - THURSDAY 9TH MARCH 2023

Rex Stubbs Symposium 2023

The Rex Stubbs Symposium is named in commemoration of Emeritus Mayor, Dr Rex Stubbs OAM, who was first elected to Hawkesbury City Council in 1983. He held office for nearly 27 years and was their longest serving Councillor. The event recognises Dr Stubbs' commitment to the Hawkesbury community and aims to promote interest in the unique history of the area. The theme this year is *The River*.

Hawkesbury City Council



Library Museum Gallery

Guest speakers will be discussing the rich history of the Hawkesbury River from three main perspectives: Geological, Aboriginal, & Colonial. The guest speaker list will be announced closer to the date.

The annual history symposium is also an information sharing and networking opportunity for members of all Hawkesbury Local Government Area historical societies and heritage groups, as well as those in immediate environs. It provides an opportunity for the representatives of those groups to broaden their knowledge of trends in local and family history, heritage and collection management and to hear about projects that other organisations are focusing on. Groups are invited to give a 5 minute update during the day on their activities. This is a time to share with other groups and likeminded people what you are currently working on or new things happening in your group.

Note: This event is scheduled for Saturday 4th February 2023 and is free, but bookings will close on 31 October 2022, so if you wish to attend, please respond now.

Date: Saturday 4th February 2023

Time: 9:30am to 2pm

Venue: Tebbutt Room, Deerubbin Centre, 300 George Street, Windsor

A light lunch will be provided. For more information please see the attached invitation.

To book, visit the website at www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

Or email Kate.Fisher@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

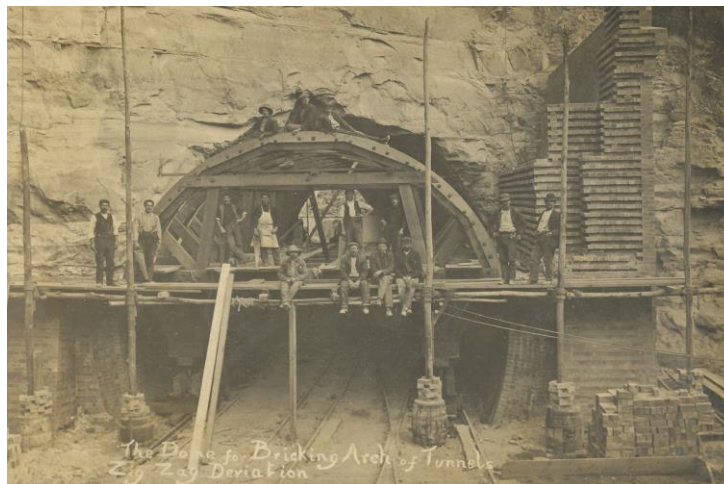
Blue Mountains Association of Cultural and Heritage Organisations (BMACHO) Bi-annual Conference 2023

The BMACHO Bi-Annual Conference for **Saturday 6th May 2023** is still “on track” – so to speak, given it has a railways theme!

The venue is confirmed as the Springwood Sports Club, which provides onsite parking and has close access to the railway station for travellers. Considerable accommodation opportunities are available in the vicinity.

The speakers too can now be confirmed and include: Phil Hammon, David Griffiths, Doug Knowles, Greg Bourne, Carolynne Cooper, Mark Langdon, Keith Ward and Kate O'Neill.

Their topics will range from the Pansy rail line, the Zig Zag tunnels at Lithgow, the Glenbrook



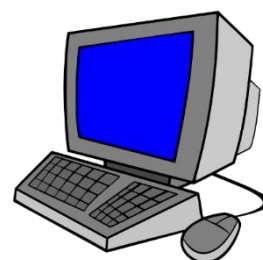
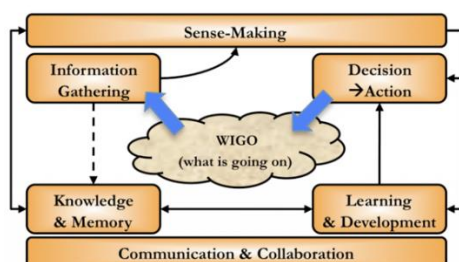
Bricking the Zig Zag tunnel

tunnels and Glenbrook Gorge, JB North's railway bridge and other fascinating aspects of railways through the Blue Mountains.

Contact BMACHO for further information in the New Year, and/or watch for the January-February *Heritage* Newsletter.

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

Don't forget BMACHO's 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.



It is 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, Secretary and Webmaster, Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum, and Emily Cullen, Sector Development Manager, Museums & Galleries NSW.

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 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 Ambermere 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>



Remembrance Day

***lest
We
forget***



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 City Library; 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.