

# *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*

## **Convalescent homes for returned servicemen**

Following WWI and WWII the Red Cross was instrumental in calling for expressions of interest under their Convalescent Home and Voluntary Aid Branch, for accommodation for returned soldiers. Many soldiers arrived home unwell or incapacitated and had nowhere to go. *'..... we sent him up to one of the mountain homes for which he was immensely grateful. Every day we are receiving letters from people all over the State offering to take one or two convalescent soldiers....'*

Private homes were offered across the mountains and the country, sometimes rented by the Red Cross for the purpose. In other instances, the Red Cross actually purchased property. In 1915 Mrs Phillips home (*Glenella*) and Mr Jason Leslie's home (*Balquhain* formerly *Irvill*), both at Blackheath, and Professor David's home (*Tyn-y-Coed*) at Woodford, were all receiving convalescent soldiers.

In Perth, the military authorities ..... *called for people who have suitable premises which could be made available for the purpose, giving particulars. It would facilitate matters if owners of premises which could be readily converted into cheery homes for the wounded would adopt the course suggested....*

In 1940 the Red Cross was seeking homes which were eight to ten miles from the city of Sydney, to accommodate not less than 30 patients. In turn, members of the public approached the Red Cross offering their homes like *Kippilaw* at Leura, and civic minded individuals and philanthropists like John Howie offered their skills with newly constructed homes.

The following are just two of the many such homes offered by the Blue Mountains community.

*Patsy Moppett*

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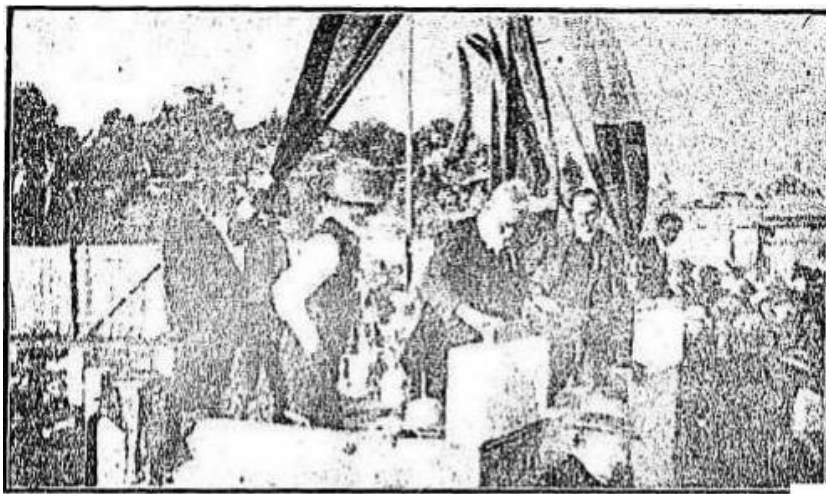
*Need convalescent homes for soldiers: The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW : 1931 - 1954)Saturday 13 January 1940 - Page 15*

*Blackheath – today from yesterday: Rotary Club of Blackheath Inc 2005*

- ***Soldiers' Homes, Darley Street, Katoomba***

Residents of Katoomba might note a distinctive group of four detached gabled cottages at 33-39 Darley Street. The cottages are alike and date back to 1915, being intended for the use of men serving in World War I. Originally each cottage had a verandah on the street frontage, with a corrugated iron roof, two brick corbelled brick chimneys, and was clad in weatherboard. The front door is on the left side of the street elevation, with two double hung windows to the right. Some alterations to the buildings since the original construction include removal of chimneys, verandah replacement, front door replacement, and verandah post replacement. For the most part they are intact and in good condition. Each dwelling is now privately owned, and each cottage had a Scottish name which highlighted the builder's origins in Scotland: *Glenrock*, *Lochgoin*, *Ravenscraig* and *Abergeldie* – the latter two being medieval castles in Aberdeenshire.

The houses were constructed by local builders under instruction from stonemason and philanthropist John Howie.



*John Howie laying the foundation stones for the soldiers' homes at Katoomba*



*Darley Street cottages*

John Howie was born in Scotland on 4<sup>th</sup> February 1850 to William Howie and Christina (Black), one of 13 children. William Howie had been born in Glasgow in 1831 to John and Elesebeth (McDonald). William Howie had married Christina Black in 1849 and by 1861 he was listed as a mason and stone cutter. Young John and his brother Archibold trained under their father, apart from a sojourn by John in Canada in 1870. William died on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1880, aged only 49, with little to show for his fine work. The City of Glasgow Bank had closed its doors and promptly collapsed, in a financial scandal that caused recession in Glasgow, ruined the bank's shareholders, and bankrupted many Glasgow businesses. The building firm, and William himself, were declared bankrupt within two weeks of the collapse.

In 1875 John returned to Scotland from Canada and married Agnes Hyslop. John and Agnes, along with his brother Archie, his sister Mary, and John's newborn son William came to Sydney in 1879 aboard the *Samual Plimsoll*. Archie's wife Janet remained behind to give

birth to her first child. The ship *Samuel Plimsoll*, under Captain Boaden, sailed from Plymouth for Sydney on March 21<sup>st</sup> with 465 emigrants under the supervision of Dr. Pringle Hughes as surgeon superintendent, with Miss Jones in charge of the single women. At least 15 passengers (including 6 babies) died on the voyage, one of whom was John's little son, William. Another passenger, Elizabeth Allbon, kept a diary of the journey and noted that babies died on 16<sup>th</sup> April, 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 5<sup>th</sup> June and 6<sup>th</sup> June. No dates are recorded for the deaths on the ship but one of these deaths was little William.



*The Samuel Plimsoll*



*John Howie & family*

Upon arrival in the colony the ship was quarantined at the North Head Quarantine Station, Manly, due to the illnesses onboard, where many passengers carved initials or brief messages on the rocks there. John Howie, being a mason, went one better, and left two carefully crafted carvings which have been the subject of interest ever since. All inscriptions that were carved by those who spent time in quarantine offered words from the creator's own individual perspective of the quarantine experience. Names of ships, passengers and crew, dates, diseases and symbols remain as key facts which serve as a record of their time on the site. Some passengers of the *Samuel Plimsoll* were dispersed within two to three weeks, including the Howie family. However, fifteen others were kept isolated for some ten more weeks, fending for themselves. Finally, they were released, not without controversy relating to the inappropriate behaviour of Dr Lacey, who had replaced Dr Hughes at the Station.



*John Howie's inscriptions*

The first inscription by Howie, 3m up a rock face, is clearly the work of a skilled mason. He drew a star above the word "Ship" and under the ship's name *Samuel Plimsoll* he listed five of the ship's senior staff by name; the captain, chief officer, second officer, purser and matron. Beneath these he carved 462 (unnamed) emigrants, their date of arrival, and his own name. The second carving is a less formal shield-like carving in relief, bearing five



names. Notable was the absence of the doctor's name. It is thought that blame was partly laid on him for the loss of life on board during the journey.

Once in Australia, John Howie worked for the McCredie brothers, John, Robert and Thomas, for seven years as a stone mason in their building firm. *[McCredie brothers will be touched on briefly in the next issue of Heritage]*. Howie then worked for James Barnet in the Colonial Architect's Office as Clerk of Works.

Archie's wife Janet gave birth to Archie's son Archibald back in Scotland and followed the family out in 1881, accompanied by John's mother, the widow Christina. Christina moved to Bodalla, south of Sydney and away from her family, where she died in 1886.

John and his brother established a private contracting business and were responsible for a series of major buildings, including part of Garden Island, the Art Gallery of NSW, additions to the Australian Museum and the city vegetable markets. Outside Sydney, Howie built the government hospital for the insane at Morrissett but his most memorable building was the stone mansion at North Richmond built for the Broken Hill millionaire, Philip Charley, now the St John of God Hospital.



*Morrissett Hospital*



*St John of God, Hospital, Richmond*

Together with his brother Archie, and later John's sons, the Howie family became well known as independent contractors in Sydney. Archie and John split their business in the 1890s and John continued on with his sons John and William and a son-in-law, David Pollok Park.

John Howie retired from the firm in 1910, travelling back to Scotland with Agnes for a retirement holiday. Upon their return John and Agnes moved to the Blue Mountains where John took a significant role in Katoomba affairs. In 1913 Howie and A.C. Kent designed the new Congregational Church in Katoomba Street, where he had attended church services. He was also responsible for enlargement of the waterworks dam, and the building at his own expense of the four soldiers' homes in Darley Street. Howie retained all four cottages until his death in 1917, when his widow sold each cottage separately.

Upon retirement Howie built the beautiful *Cathkin Braes* in Lurline Street, Katoomba for his family and named it for his wife's Scottish birthplace. His skill as a stonemason is obvious at *Cathkin Braes* in its impressive sandstone gateposts and with the home itself. It features fine timberwork, particularly in the barge boards and verandah detailing, tuckpointed brickwork, slate roofing and stonework.

*Cathkin Braes* is a single storey federation Queen Anne style house on a prominent corner location on Lurline Street, having a hipped roof with feature gables on the south and west fronts and gablet vents. A verandah falls along the west side and returns along the south and north elevations. The west gable is centred on the Lurline Street elevation and marks the main entry to the house. The south gable marks a projecting wing, terminating the verandah on that side of the house. A rear service wing runs east on the south side of the house, with a skillion verandah on the north side. The roof is of slate with crenellated terracotta ridging and rams horn finials. There are three chimneys in cream brick with red quoins and corbels and terracotta pots. The bargeboards are highly decorative timber

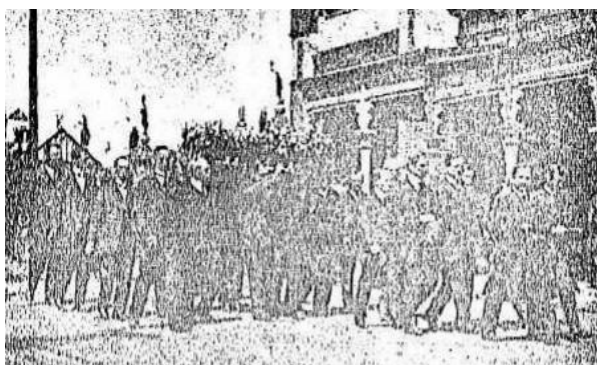


*The gracious home, Cathkin Braes*

fretwork. The walls of the house are of tuckpointed red bricks, with the plinth of random coursed sandstone. The verandah has timber posts with horizontal grooves, decorative chamfers and moulded capitals. Fretwork brackets repeat the pattern of the bargeboards and support a frieze of turned timber. The verandah is paved with tessellated tiles with a marble nosing. The front door is high waisted with a toplight and sidelight. On either side of the door are square bays of casement windows, with toplights. French doors from the south gabled wing open to the verandah. The gateposts to Lurline Street are a fine pair of sandstone pillars on an axis with the front door and have pointed caps featuring a trefoil motif.

In January 1914 Howie became an alderman of Katoomba Municipality and the following month he was mayor, but he ..... *chafed under the restrictions ... then broke out in rebellion, and resigned* .... twice in 1914. He remained an alderman, however, until his death on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1917.

About four months before his death Howie initiated a Soldiers' Home movement for Katoomba, and gave freely of his money, thought and labour. Up until a few days before his death he was still consulting with the builders on finishing touches to the cottages in Darley Street. He also talked about his plans for a rest home for soldiers and their dependents, to be built by him with no input from government.



*The funeral procession*



*Katoomba Congregational Church*

John Howie died unexpectedly, although he had been unwell for a year previous. On the day of his funeral hundreds of mourners gathered outside *Cathkin Braes*, who then followed the cortege to the church. Flags flew at half mast, all business houses closed, and the service at Katoomba Congregational Church was attended by everyone of note in the Upper Mountains. His casket was conveyed by train to Sydney where he was buried in the Presbyterian section at Rookwood. His pall-bearers at Rookwood cemetery were the six highest officers, past and present, of the Master Builders Association of New South Wales.

The funeral was attended by the Mayor and Aldermen, members of the bowling club, Caledonian Society, the rifle club and many other groups. A marble tablet was placed in the Church by the church members in his memory, which read:

*Erected  
in loving memory of  
JOHN HOWIE  
An earnest member and Life Deacon of  
This Church  
Died Oct. 13, 1917  
'I know who I have believed'*

During the sermon, the minister alluded to his selflessness and philanthropy, saying ..... *To the Soldiers Homes not only did he give the land, but many of the donations to that work, under the anonymous name of 'a friend' came from his hand.....*

He was survived by four daughters and two sons. Agnes Howie moved away from Katoomba to live with her son John in Epping, where she died in 1926. She sold *Cathkin Braes* along with the adjacent four blocks of vacant land to George Nash, a Katoomba grocer, in the early 1920s. The Blue Mountain Echo of 19<sup>th</sup> October labelled him a .... *Grand old Christian gentleman....*  
Patsy Moppett

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#### **• Kippilaw, Leura**

Early in WWII, in 1941, the owners of *Kippilaw*, Leura, Mr & Mrs Arthur Mort, donated their significant home to the Red Cross Society as a convalescent home for soldiers. It was noted that the building had accommodation for 36 soldiers, but this was thought to have had the potential to be increased. Mrs Mort was at the time the vice president of the Katoomba branch of the Society. The home was a Red Cross convalescent home until it closed in 1945.

In 1945 the house was then established as a Junior Red Cross Home, with children being received from *Juong* Junior Red Cross Home and *Shuna* (est. 1924) Red Cross Homes. The first group of children was received in October, being delicate sons of servicemen and ex-servicemen. Each child's holiday stay in the mountains varied from a few weeks to a few months. The holiday at *Kippilaw* ..... *has helped these Junior Red Cross members to realise the fine work that is done there all the year round for ex-servicemen's children, and had given them still stronger incentive to help it forward.....*

*Kippilaw* then closed in 1950 and the children were transferred to *Berida*.

Arthur Edward Lyle Mort was born 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 1862 at Darling Point to Henry Mort and Maria Laidley. He was one of 10 children. His father Henry was the brother of Thomas Sutcliffe Mort, the Australian industrialist who improved the refrigeration of meat. Thomas was renowned for speculation in the local pastoral industry as well as industrial activities such as



his ice-works in Sydney's Darling Harbour, dry dock and engineering works at Balmain, and a slaughtering and chilling works at Bowenfels, near Lithgow.



*Kippilaw 1947*



*Kippilaw 2021*

Henry came to Australia in 1840 and went straight to Queensland where he managed Cressbrook Station. He married Maria Laidley in 1846, she becoming the first white woman in the Cressbrook district. In 1849 Henry left Cressbrook and moved to *Franklyn Vale*, travelling across the Liverpool Ranges by horse and buggy. They moved to Sydney in 1853 where young Arthur was born, and Henry worked with his brother Thomas in the wool industry. Henry died in 1900 at Woollahra aged 81.

Arthur Mort married Constance Chisholm on 14<sup>th</sup> January 1891 at St John's Church of England (Anglican Church), Darlinghurst. Constance was born on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1866 in Glebe, to Edward and Jane Chisholm (Howe). Constance' father was James Chisholm of *Kippilaw* in the Southern Highlands of NSW. *Kippilaw* at Breadalbane was a grant of 1,280 acres given to James' wife Elizabeth, as a marriage portion from Governor Ralph Darling, a custom begun by Governor Lachlan Macquarie for settlers on their marriage. Elizabeth was a descendent of Alexander Kinghorne [see *Heritage Newsletter No. 73, April-May 2021*]. Elizabeth named their 1837 Georgian homestead after her birthplace in Scotland, Kippilaw, near Melrose Abbey. Its meaning comes from 'Kippi' which is Pictish for 'little' and 'law' which is Saxon for 'hill'.

Over the coming years Arthur and Constance had seven children.



*Franklyn Vale homestead*

Arthur and Constance lived back at Franklyn Vale until 1924 when they moved to Leura to *Kippilaw*, leaving their beautiful old home in Queensland. It is probable that they built *Kippilaw* at Leura themselves, although the year is uncertain. (1924-5?).



*Kippilaw Homestead, Breadalbane*

Constance Chisholm (Mort) obviously had a flair for the garden, because by 1927 she had developed a stunning garden:

*..... her charming white cottage with an English garden - the kind one remembers along the banks of the Thames. Standard roses lift their heads above a carpet of violas, poppies and stocks; across the green lawn with its white seats and tubs one looks down a vista of rambler-clad arches to a formal cypress hedge clipped into small turrets; wisteria, English honeysuckle, yellow jasmine, and a tiny flowered fuchsia climb over wall and pergola, and a bird feeding place and bath complete the illusion. It is a garden in which a homesick Londoner would find joy and healing.....*



*Kippilaw 1930 - painting by Gerald Fitzgerald*

Mr and Mrs Mort were known fundraisers for many causes including the Home of Peace in Petersham, and often held fund raising functions in their own home. The Eversleigh Hospital in Petersham was established in 1907 as the first Home of Peace. Representatives of the Anglican Church in Sydney purchased a large single storey villa named *Eversleigh* in about 1876 and opened the *Home of Peace Hospital for the Dying*. The facility was opened by the Governor of NSW Sir Harry Rawson in 1907. From 1913 to 1923, new hospital buildings were constructed including the tower, a small freestanding chapel and the main hospital block. The hospital closed in 1998 and the buildings have been reused as residential development.

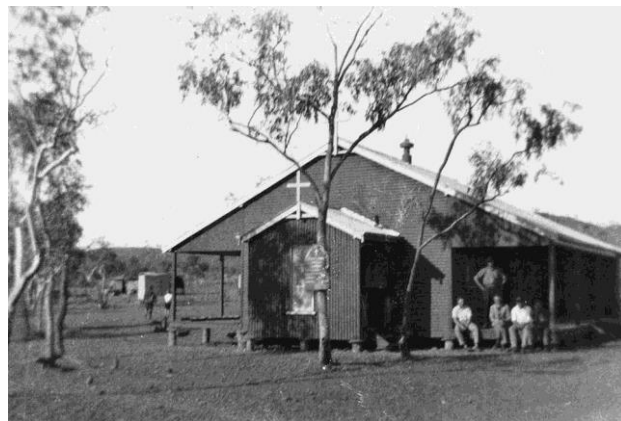
The former Red Cross Convalescent Hostel in Wahroonga was purchased and opened as the second *Home of Peace* in 1955. Greenwich Hospital was opened in 1966 and managed



as the Pallister Girls' Home from 1977. In 1982 this work was transferred to Lower North Shore Area Adolescent Service. Braeside Anglican Hospital was added in 1986. The Morts often offered their home and garden for fundraising activities. In 1927 the Bishop of Ballarat held a meeting there in aid of the Bush Brotherhood from the Far West. In 1933 Bishop Crotty was a speaker at a function at *Kippilaw* also for the Bush Brotherhood movement. The Bush Brotherhood was a group of Anglican religious orders providing itinerant priests to minister to sparsely-settled rural districts in Australia. They were described as a "band of men" who could "preach like Apostles" and "ride like cowboys!" During the 1930s the garden was often open for inspection by the public, with displays of rhododendrons, azaleas and roses, raising funds for Blue Mountains Hospital or the Blue Mountains District Ambulance. In 1939 a dinner party was held at *Kippilaw* for the Earl and Duchess of Ducie, who were visiting Australia that year from Gloucestershire. The Earl's father had had dealings with Queensland politics.



*Earl and Duchess of Ducie 1939*



*St James Bush Brother chapel at Mt Isa*

In 1941 a dinner party was held in Sydney to celebrate Arthur and Constance's golden wedding anniversary. Their seven children and thirteen grandchildren were in attendance. Arthur Mort died in 1944 in Sydney. Constance died 9<sup>th</sup> May 1954 at Rushcutters Bay. *Kippilaw* is located on Leura Mall and is currently available for holiday rental.

*Patsy Moppett*

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### **From the Editor**

Soldiers' homes have been a subject of discussion lately. Many properties were offered, built and/or dedicated as convalescent places for servicemen and ex-servicemen after both World Wars I and II across Australia, including within the Blue Mountains. Premises with a seaside location or in the mountains were particularly popular. We hope you enjoy sharing the details of just a few of these places of peace provided for returned servicemen, together with the connections they provide with other sectors of the early mountains community.

Brian Fox has been out and about again, this time exploring Narrow Neck, revealing more intriguing details of the past. And the Bush Explorers have completed the last in their series of books on the Gardens of Stone and the many features in that wonderland. The Blue Mountains Historical Society are off to the Capertee Valey and Glen Davis in November, and BMERT are set to launch the story of Eugene Stockton, the Blue Mountains hermit. His background and knowledge are astounding!

We also go exploring with Charles Throsby – he certainly covered some country! But the family experienced trauma and tragedy in the following years.

There have been so many heritage related events on during spring we hope you have been able to catch some of them, especially those during Heritage Week. Many of the events relate to bushwalking and getting into the great outdoors. This includes the Glenbrook walks, which provide a variety of routes from easy to hard, catering for all fitness levels.



The *A Moment in Time* exhibition has now been placed in storage following the period spent at the Hartley Historic site earlier this year. It is looking for a new temporary or permanent home, so expressions of interest would be welcome by the National Trust Lithgow Branch. Workshops are pending, of relevance to museums across the region. In addition, the next round of members' Annual General Meetings are underway, so once your new committee is in place, let us know for publication in the next Newsletter.

Can't believe Christmas is upon us again! Christmas parties and end of year events are approaching across the mountains, so join your group to celebrate the end of 2023, the festive season and the beginning of a New Year! This includes Valley Heights, who are staging their annual Christmas events at the Railway Museum.

Visitors are always welcome at our BMACHO Christmas Committee Meeting, this year to be held at The Carrington at Katoomba on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Contact the BMACHO Committee for details.

### ***Flying Fox on Narrow Neck***

Brian Fox relates his findings on the Narrow neck flying fox:

Rumours of ladders at the end of Castle Head to access the Ruined Castle Mine had first been brought to my attention by Wilf Hilder many years ago. Both Hilder and Myles Dunphy were members of the Lands Department place names committee.

Myles Dunphy had made notes on his maps to the effect that there were ladders which miners used to access the Ruined Castle Mine, via Narrow Neck at the end of Castle Head.

*Map of Clear Head Peninsula, Blue Mountains. Drawn by Myles J. Dunphy Mountain Trails Club NSW. September 1919. Revised May 1928. Records text at the top of Castle Head, Narrow Neck, "The old trail to Ruined Castle via ladders down cliff".*

However very close inspection on a number of bushwalks and those who have abseiled at the end of Castle Head failed to find any evidence whatsoever that ladders were used. Indeed, it is quite a long precipitous vertical descent, and would have required a series of ladders. Nor is there any mention on any other parish, geological, shale railway or tourist maps showing ladders.

We can only assume Dunphy was told something in relation to the Ruined Castle Mine had occurred from Castle Head and he assumed it was miners using ladders. This was not correct. But like many rumours, somewhere there is a grain of truth.

What inspired John Cooper and myself to investigate the Castle Head area was information from Phil Hammon (Scenic World) that a flying fox was used to transport material from the top of Narrow Neck towards the Ruined Castle Track for the Ruined Castle Mines.



*Rock grooves at cliff line*



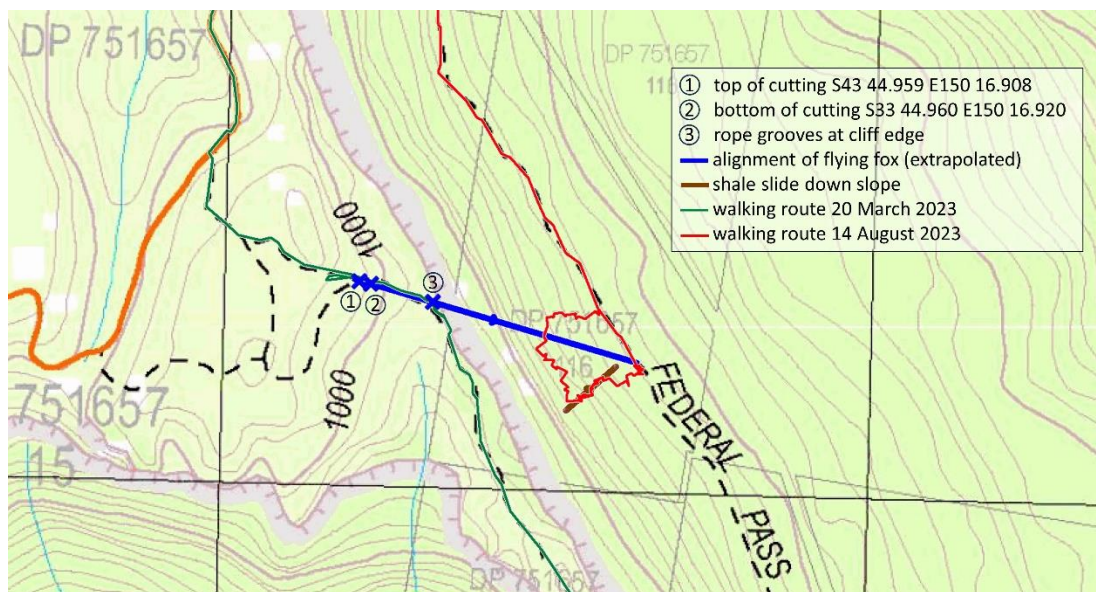
*Steps on cut benched section*

A search of the local newspapers found an article in the Blue Mountain Gazette 13 February 1903, p. 2; col. 3 which records,

*“On Thursday afternoon Mr. Duff with his bullock teams from the railway yards two loads of wire rope for the mines. One weighed 3 tons 3 cwt. and another 2 tons 18 cwt., while there was about 10 tons in all to draw, rope was taken to Narrow Neck which will be lowered over the cliffs into the valley below.”*

One of our Monday bushwalks 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023 set out along Narrow Neck towards Castle Head to confirm or dispel the story.

What was rediscovered 1.1 km before the southern end of Castle Head, was a cut benched section (there are now steps in this cutting) in which the ropeway would have been positioned and groove marks on the sandstone rock as the rope went over the cliff line. A subsequent Monday bushwalk on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2023 set out to check the base of the flying fox alignment. The vegetation at the base was so thick that if any evidence of wire was left behind it was totally covered.



*Plan compiled by John Cooper 2023*

John Cooper has drawn the alignment of the flying fox (above) along with the grid references for the cutting and the track we followed.

*Brian Fox*

### ***Dr Charles Throsby Esq – explorer extraordinaire***

Dr Charles Throsby's name recurs often throughout the early history of the New South Wales Colony. He was known as a surgeon, a settler, a parliamentarian and an explorer. He is probably most well known for his explorations, initially working with Surveyor-General James Meehan and then with Hamilton Hume, as well as carrying out his own explorations. He was one of the first settlers in the Illawarra from at least 1816, and also in the Moss Vale district. He was much appreciated by Governor Macquarie who rewarded his efforts with grants of land in a number of locations.

Throsby was born at Glenfield, near Leicester in the UK on 20<sup>th</sup> December 1777, to John Throsby and Anne (Godfrey). He was one of ten children, and his father John was a noted historian and antiquarian. His grandfather was Nicholas Throsby, an alderman and Mayor of Leicester. Young Charles joined the navy as a surgeon and served on the ships *Coromandel* and *Calcutta* from 1797 in the French Revolutionary Wars until peace was declared.

On 19<sup>th</sup> December 1801 he married the widowed Jane Barber (former wife of George Barber) at Portsea, Hampshire England. Jane was born in 1886 in England, as Jane Romaine.

Throsby remained with the *Coromandel* and in 1802 he arrived in the Colony of New South Wales as naval surgeon on the ship, carrying 136 male convicts from Portsmouth to Sydney. They departed Portsmouth on 12<sup>th</sup> February 1802, and arrived in Sydney on 13<sup>th</sup> June 1802, without calling into other ports, and with no reported convict deaths under his care. Governor

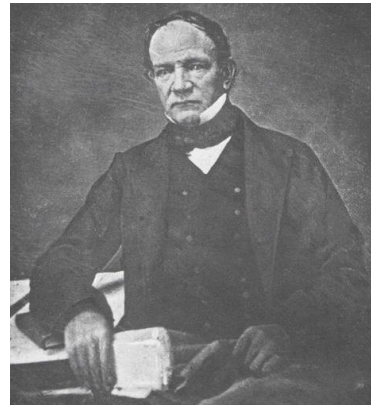


King commended Throsby on the condition of the convicts and settlers on the voyage. Throsby was appointed medical officer the same year at Castle Hill, and then moved to Sydney in 1804. He was sent to Newcastle as assistant surgeon, but in 1805 he was given command of the Sydney settlement which, according to Governor King, he conducted with '.... *great Activity and Propriety*....'.

In 1808 he was made a magistrate under the Johnston administration, following the arrest of Bligh, but resigned as surgeon on the grounds of ill health in 1809. He was permitted to retire as a free settler, and was granted 500 acres at Cabramatta, and 600 acres at Minto. Under Macquarie he had to surrender these but was then granted 1500 acres in their place.



*The ship Coromandel*



*Dr Charles Throsby*

He constructed his home *Glenfield* at Minto, named for his birthplace, between 1810 and 1817 and concentrated on the farm for several years. *Glenfield* today comprises the homestead, coach house and dairy, and has remained virtually unaltered since its construction. It is still a farm and is maintained by the Glenfield Goodwill Farm Co-operative Society.



*Glenfield Farm, Minto*



In 1811 he was employed as agent by the colony's wealthiest landowner, Sir John Jamison, of *Regentville*.

He had also obtained land in the Illawarra district where he had a hut by 1816. From there he explored south west of Sutton Forest in 1817 with Hamilton Hume, a family friend. In 1818 he joined James Meehan on a journey south from the Cowpastures, through Moss Vale and Bundanoon Creek to the Shoalhaven River and Jervis Bay. In 1819 he journeyed from the Cowpastures out to Bathurst, passing through the area where Taralga is now located, opening up land for Macquarie, who then granted him 1000 acres in the Southern Highlands near Moss Vale at Bong Bong, which became *Throsby Park*.

Throsby was put in charge of the construction of a road to the Goulburn plains and in August of that year two of his men reached Lake George. Throsby found a pass from the Illawarra to Robertson, and then in 1820 he explored from Goulburn and Lake Bathurst through to the Breadalbane Plains. Macquarie's opinion of the new country was high, as was his opinion of Throsby, given previous uncertainties in regard to Throsby's value to the colony and Meehan's judgement that the land was not as useful as it appeared.

In 1820 he was reluctant to undertake further exploration but soon ventured out in search of the Murrumbidgee in 1821. He crossed the Molongolo and Queanbeyan Rivers and the land where Canberra is now situated. Later that year he set out from Sutton Forest to Jervis Bay. Macquarie made him magistrate for the new County of Argyle in 1821 and granted him another 700 acres to add to *Throsby Park*.

In 1825 Throsby was appointed to the Legislative Assembly, one of the ten landholders and merchants submitted by Governor Brisbane to Earl Bathurst in 1824 as suitable for appointment for a colonial council, and when the NSW Legislative Council was formed in December 1825, three of these were appointed, of whom Throsby was one. His standing in the community was very high and by this time he was the owner of about 20,000 acres across the Colony as well as large and valuable herds of cattle.



*Throsby Park – painting by Conrad Martens 1836*



*Throsby Park – painting by Conrad Martens 1837*



*Throsby Park 2022*

However, he had health problems and also financial woes. He had gone surety on behalf of his friend Garnham Blaxcell, who in 1817 absconded from the colony and died on board ship, leaving Throsby at the mercy of his creditors. Ten years of litigation took its toll on Throsby, who by 1828 was also affected by the drought and by falling prices for wool. Worn down by worry and ill health, he committed suicide by shooting himself on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1828, aged 51, and was buried in Liverpool cemetery. His wife Jane died on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1838. He was disappointed that he had had no children, although history records the birth of a Maria Throsby, born in 1813, supposedly the infant daughter of Charles and Jane. There is no mention of her on the 1828 Census, so it is probable that she died soon after birth or in childhood. Dr Throsby sent for his nephew Charles Throsby Jnr to come to Australia to become his heir.

Dr Charles Throsby is commemorated in the name of the Commonwealth Electoral Division of Throsby, in the Canberra suburb of Throsby and Throsby Creek in Newcastle, NSW. Charles Jnr. arrived on the *Mangles* in August 1820, and at Liverpool in 1824 he married Betsey, daughter of a William Broughton of the First Fleet. Betsey had had a traumatic childhood. In 1809, as a small child, she and her mother were passengers on the ship *Boyd*



when the captain called at the Bay of Islands in New Zealand to take on a cargo of timber. In retaliation for treatment received by natives on board another ship, the vessel was attacked by a Maori tribe and burned. All of those on board the ship were killed with the exception of one woman and three children, one of whom was Elizabeth. Some three weeks later Alexander Berry, a friend of Elizabeth's father, having heard of the disaster, arrived at the Bay, where he succeeded in rescuing the survivors. Being on his way to Europe through the Atlantic, he left Elizabeth with a Spanish family in Lima and arranged for her to be sent home to New South Wales – an amazing story of survival.



*Charles Throsby Jnr*



*Betsey Broughton  
Painting by Richard Read 1814*



*Betsey Throsby*

From 1823 the Throsby family had lived in a weatherboard cottage that was built to the north-west of the current main house. The cottage still exists, although its original elements are hidden within subsequent additions. Charles Jnr then built the twenty seven roomed *Throsby Park* as we know it, commencing in 1834 and being completed in 1837.

The house, a fine example of a Colonial Georgian homestead, is built of stone quarried on the site, with internal dividing walls of brick. It is of single storey, with cellars beneath and attics in part of the roof. Wings, extending from the main block of the house form a courtyard which is enclosed by the separately built kitchen wing. The joinery throughout the house is cedar and includes six-panelled doors and panelled folding shutters to the windows. The fireplace surrounds are original, three of marble and the rest of stone.

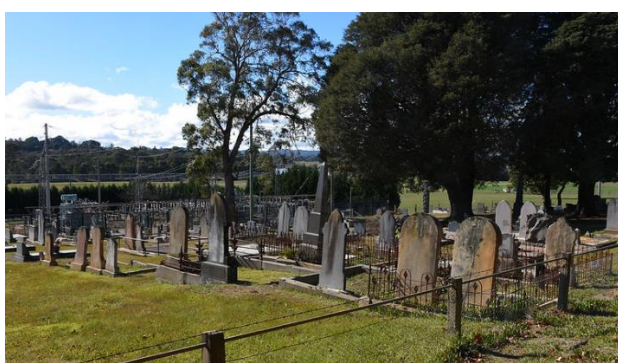
Charles Jnr was successful in weathering the depression of the 1840s by converting the property's flour mill into a boiling down works. Here he slaughtered animals to be rendered down for tallow for export, selling the meat products locally. When the crisis passed, the mill resumed its proper function.

His children struggled to carry on the family line. Elizabeth had seventeen children, nine sons and eight daughters. However, in 1848 John, the oldest son, was killed when his horse fell not far from the house, and a few days later another son, William, died from scarlet fever. Evelyn John, born in 1850, did not survive infancy. In 1854 Charles Throsby Jnr died, making Elizabeth a widow at 47. Following Charles' death, the eldest remaining son - yet another Charles - inherited the *Glenfield* property but died in 1859 and *Throsby Park* was run by James until 1860 when he also died after being gored by a bull. Such tragedy! Elizabeth then decided to return to live in the cottage in which she had begun her married life on the property, leasing out the main house. Following Elizabeth Throsby's death in January 1891, Patrick Hill Throsby, one of her sons, and his family moved to *Throsby Park*, and took over its management.

Charles Throsby Jnr had given land for a church, burial ground and parsonage with a glebe of 100 acres (40 ha) at Bong Bong. Christ Church is set in a churchyard with a cemetery on a hill over the Wingecarribee River, now on the outskirts of Moss Vale, and near *Throsby Park* estate. It is constructed of sandstock brick on stone foundations. The exterior has been cement rendered and painted white. Construction started early in 1845 according to the plans of the well known architect, John Verge. The Church was paid for by Charles Throsby Jnr and the building was dedicated and consecrated by Bishop of Australia William



*Christ Church, Bong Bong*



*Christ Church graveyard*

Broughton in 1845. Beneath the church is a crypt, intended for Throsby family members but never used. Many of these pioneers and early settlers are buried in the adjacent cemetery including Charles and Betsey Throsby and their descendants. The church's stained glass windows were restored in 2004. The east window, depicting Christ's ascension, was given by Betsey Throsby (probably in 1884) in memory of her late husband. Of the Bong Bong township, only the church and graveyard, the *Briars Inn* and *Throsby Park* remain. In 1962 *Throsby Park* was placed on the "A" classification list of Australian buildings by the National Trust.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service purchased the property in 1975 when the Throsbys were forced to offer the property for sale. Under the terms of the sale, family members were granted a 20 year lease for the rear of the house and use of the estate. The lease term was later extended and they continued to live in the house until 2006.

*Throsby Park* was transferred from the National Parks and Wildlife Service to the Museum of History NSW in 2010.

*Patsy Moppett*

### **References:**

- Throsby, Charles (1777–1828): Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vivienne Parsons 1967*  
*The World of Betsey Throsby: David Burke 1994*  
*Charles Throsby: Wikipedia*  
*Charles Throsby, 1777–1828 (aged 51 years): Australian Royalty, Genealogy of the Colony of New South Wales*  
*Charles Throsby Esq. (1777 - 1828): Wikitree*  
*Jane Throsby: Wikitree*  
*Jane Throsby: Australian Royalty, Genealogy of the Colony of New South Wales*  
*Charles Throsby, surgeon: Free Settler or Felon, Hunter Valley history*  
*Dr Charles Throsby: Genealogy [www.geni.com](http://www.geni.com)*  
*Glenfield Farm (built between 1810 & 1817): Wikitree*  
*Mr Charles THROSBY (1777 - 1828): Parliament of NSW [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au)*  
*Rediscovering Ginninderra: Charles Throsby: Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre*  
*Throsby Park: A Comfortable Residence: Museums of History NSW*  
*A18 Dr Charles Throsby Surgeon, farmer, magistrate, explorer: Mayne-Wilson & Associates, Final Interpretive Signage Strategy for Liverpool Pioneers Memorial Park*  
*Christ Church, Bong Bong: Wikipedia*  
*Taralga History: [www.monumenthistory.org.au](http://www.monumenthistory.org.au)*

### **Book Launch: Eugene Stockton: Blue Mountains Hermit**

Eugene Stockton was born in 1934 and grew up at Lawson in the Blue Mountains where an interest in the natural environment was nurtured. He is a retired Catholic priest and archaeologist.

With his training in archaeology, Stockton became increasingly interested in Australian aboriginal archaeology together with its spirituality. He pursued archaeological investigations in the Blue Mountains, the north and central coasts and far west of New South Wales.



His most important works were six excavations in the Blue Mountains where many Aboriginal artefacts were discovered. The excavations included those at Kings Tableland, Wentworth Falls and near the Nepean River at the base of the Blue Mountains. In 2008 Stockton established the Blue Mountain Educational and Research Trust (BMERT) to promote local Blue Mountains research and writing, especially in Aboriginal, religious and spiritual studies.



Stockton has written over one hundred and fifty articles and many books on biblical studies, Christianity, theology, archaeological surveys, and Aboriginal spirituality.

**---Save the Date---**

for the launch of BMERT's new book - *Eugene Stockton: Blue Mountains Hermit*.  
**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023**, 2pm to 4pm at BMERT Lawson.

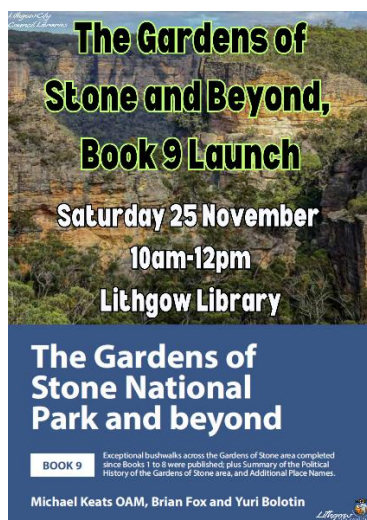
Further details are available on the BMERT website [www.bmert.com.au](http://www.bmert.com.au)

### **Book Launch: The Gardens of Stone and beyond: Book 9**

By Michael Keats OAM, Brian Fox & Yuri Bolotin

An authors' talk and the launch of a new work, ***The Gardens of Stone and beyond, Book 9***, the last in the series, will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at the Lithgow Library.

***The Gardens of Stone and beyond*** is the culmination of 14 years of work by the three intrepid explorers, featuring (30) exceptional not previously published bushwalks across the entire Gardens of Stone area, as well as the history of the political campaigning to preserve this unique landscape for future generations.





With over 3,200 bushwalks behind them, the new book takes you on adventure after adventure, exploring hidden gems in one of the more exotic and less known parts of the Greater Blue Mountains UNESCO World Heritage Area - the Gardens of Stone and beyond. For inquiries and price visit their website [www.bushexplorers.com.au](http://www.bushexplorers.com.au)

**PLEASE NOTE THE CLOSING DATE FOR ARTICLES AND NOTIFICATIONS TO THE EDITOR FOR THE JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2024 ISSUE OF HERITAGE IS THURSDAY 28<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2023**

## ***Community events & updates***

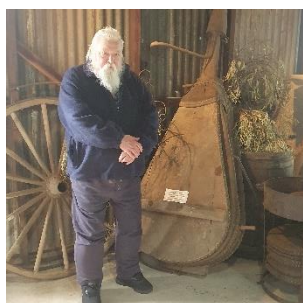
### ***A Moment in Time – What Next?***

The award-winning *Moment in Time Exhibition* created by local historian and National Trust member, Joan Kent, was installed in Corney's Garage in the Hartley Historic Village from April 1<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and jointly presented by NPWS and the Lithgow Regional Branch of the National Trust.

Now packed away in storage provided by Western Crossings Trust the exhibition is looking for a new home!

*A Moment in Time* provides an insight into the land and people of the First Nations immediately west of the Blue Mountains prior to the coming of Europeans. From then it proceeds to provide an insight into the first crossing by Europeans in 1813, George Evans' follow up exploration, the building of William Cox's road to Bathurst, and then Governor Macquarie's 1815 visit to Bathurst when he dedicated Bathurst as Australia's first inland city. It also reflects on and provides insight into the lives and experiences of four of the first European settlers to settle in the Hartley Valley.

Richly adorned with high resolution images of maps and paintings of the time, sourced from the State and National Library collections, the exhibition provides a rich cultural experience for visitors.



NT President Danny Whitty



Visitors attending the opening



Tim & Jane Cox with Susie & Ramsay Moodie

A feature of the exhibition was an element providing a brief insight into the life and journeys of several early settlers in the Hartley Valley, at that time generally just referred to as (the district of) Mt York. John Grant arrived as a convict from Ireland in 1810 and settled on his land grant *Moyne* in 1821. Pierce Collits settled in the valley with his wife Mary in 1823 and developed several of the earliest inns west of the mountains, including Collits' Inn at Hartley Vale. Both these men left their convict pasts behind and built lives of real significance in the lands they settled west of Mt York.

Following the exhibition opening by Paul Brunton, Emeritus Curator of the State Library of NSW in April 2023, the exhibition attracted approximately 1,000 visitors. Favourable comments came from interstate and overseas visitors while enjoying the ambiance of historic Hartley & its heritage buildings.

As the date agreed for removal of the exhibition approached an offer was made to the National Parks and Wildlife Service suggesting that the National Trust would be willing to extend the exhibition until such time as a further use was found for the exhibition venue,

Corney's Garage. This proposal seemed a positive one as the exhibition had created great interest at the Historic Site attracting many visitors. Despite the offer that embodied a commitment to demount and remove the exhibition at short notice when the site was required for other usage, this offer was rejected, as NPWS was in the process of considering other leasing options for the Garage and as such would not have space to host the display beyond the originally agreed timeframes. Whilst this was a disappointing decision, the



*The exhibition on show April 2023*



*Ramsay packs up the exhibition - looking for a home*

Western Crossings Trust, as owners of the exhibition, are continuing to explore other options for the permanent installation of the exhibition in the region. They note that Corney's Garage remains empty at the time of writing, 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023, NPWS Hartley say it is '*pending negotiations with commercial tenants.*'

All viable suggestions for an accessible site, either temporary or permanent, to make the exhibition available for public viewing under the care of the Lithgow National Trust Branch, can be referred to the Branch.

*National Trust Lithgow Branch*

Contact [ramsaymoodie@bigpond.com](mailto:ramsaymoodie@bigpond.com)

### **Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum**

The calendar of events for the Christmas period includes the following events, which have proven very popular in the past. So, book early to avoid disappointment!



*Valley Heights Depot 1950*

### **Museum Open Days**

*Sunday November 12<sup>th</sup> and Sunday November 26<sup>th</sup>, 10am to 4pm*

Visit the Museum, experience steam or diesel hauled train rides aboard the Valley Heights Mixed or the 1890s Sydney Steam Tram.

Select a train ride departing at 10:30am, 11:30am, 12:30pm, 1:30pm, 2:30pm or 3:15pm

*Tickets available: book online now: [www.valleyheightsrailmuseum.info](http://www.valleyheightsrailmuseum.info)*

### **Christmas trains**

#### **Meet Santa when he arrives by train at Valley Heights**

*Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10am to 4pm*

*Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup>, 10am to 4pm*

Visit the Museum and meet Santa. Ride the 130 year old steam tram or the Valley Heights Mixed - a 100 year old carriage train hauled by a 100 year old steam engine or heritage diesel, depending on operational requirements.

*Tickets available October 2023: book online from October: [www.valleyheightsrailmuseum.info](http://www.valleyheightsrailmuseum.info)*

### **Blue Mountains Historical Society Outing**

Many buildings from Hartley Vale were moved to Newnes and Glen Davis once the shale mines closed down. Following the last tour of Hartley, BMHS will next follow the shale trail out to Capertee and Glen Davis, Newnes being inaccessible due to the road closure.



*Royal Hotel Capertee*



*Glen Davis shale works*

The event will take place on **6<sup>th</sup> November 2023**. After a quick tour of Capertee, you will see the magnificent Capertee Valley, the widest canyon in the world, and have a guided tour of the Glen Davis works.

This is a BYO lunch excursion as there are no food premises available at Glen Davis.

Costs: \$25 for the bus and \$25 for admission to Glen Davis. Please bring cash with you on the day.

*To book and obtain further information contact Robyne Ridge on mobile: 0419 985 546: or Chris Webber: mobile 0424 720 676 or email [yakarr@yahoo.com](mailto:yakarr@yahoo.com)*

### **Glenbrook & District Historical Society Inc: History walks programme 2024**

All walks are on Saturdays, led by Doug Knowles & John Dikeman.

March 9: 1.30pm: "Lennox Bridge" and the old stone quarry, Brookside Creek, Dunn's steam  
**E** 2½hrs. saw mill relics and earth dam.

March 23: 9.00am: "The Descent to the West," Mt. York. Three short return walks on the  
**M** 4hrs. most historic roads to the west - Cox's Pass 1815, Lawson's Road 1822, and Berghofer's Pass, 1909.

April 13: 1.30pm: "Glenbrook Lagoon Precinct." Early campsite and railway  
**E** 1½hrs. dam construction 1867, for water supply, the first Glenbrook Railway Station.

April 27: 1.30pm: "Eastern Zig Zag Railway." This walk is on the 1867 Zig Zag  
**M** 2½hrs. Railway and Knapsack Viaduct, and also extends to the first improvement, and the Lapstone Hill tunnel 1892 (east portal only,) and the wash-away section 1906.

May 11: 1.30pm: "Eastern Zig Zag Railway." This walk is focussed on the  
**M** 2½ hrs. Knapsack Gully stone viaduct and offers good photographic opportunities. Includes Gatehouse No. 1, 1867 and the Knapsack refuge sidings, 1909.



May 25: 1.30pm: "Duck Hole, Glenbrook Creek." Old roadway construction, and pump site for railway water supply to Glenbrook Station 1903.  
**H** 2½hrs.

June 8: 1.30pm: "The Mountain Murders." Captain Lee Weller's murder site and first grave.  
**E** 1½hrs. Also rock inscriptions.

June 22: 9.00am: "Faulconbridge Steam Sawmill Site." Engine remnants, huge boiler and other relics. Operated 1914-1925.  
**H** 3½hrs.

July 6: 9.00am: "Sun Valley." Volcanic soil, giant Bluegums. Short walk along Fitzgerald's Creek.  
**E** 2hrs.

July 20: 1.30pm: "Lapstone Construction Railway." 1910-1913 and east portal of Lapstone Hill Tunnel 1892.  
**E** 2hrs

August 3: 9.00am: "Bull's Creek Dam." Railway water supply, stone dam, pump site, relics, Paradise Pool. Circuitous walk.  
**H** 3½hrs

August 17: 9.00am: "Faulconbridge Point." Spectacular views of Grose River Gorge and panoramic views from east to west. Easy walking on good fire trail surface. Caution!! 13 kms total distance.  
**H** 4hrs.

September. 7: 1.30pm: "Glenbrook Discovery: Heritage Walk." Historic sites, houses, and the 1892 railway route to Lapstone Hill tunnel, west portal. Last walk for the season.  
**E** 2hrs.

*Cost: Adults - \$10.00 (cash only). Accompanied children under 16yrs - free.*

*Bookings are essential. Book early - limited numbers. Please bring a hat and drinking water (no dogs please.)*

*Phone Doug on 0414 154 695 for details re meeting place.*

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

**KEY to 'Easiness':**

- **E:** Easy gradients, firm under foot.
- **M:** Medium, Short, steep sections-some rough sections.
- **H:** Hard. Steep, rough, 4 to 5 kilometres.

**BMACHO Home Curator Workshop**

BMACHO is intending to hold a Home Curator workshop in the New Year for all those of you who have artefacts lying around the house or the shed and don't quite know what it is or how to store it. The workshop would be particularly interesting to family history researchers, who may be holding family heirlooms in boxes and cupboards with no clear idea of what to do with them.

The workshop would also cover instruction on the use of eHive, the innovative web-based system that will help you catalogue, organise and share your objects or collection in a simple and secure way.



Old clock



Old gin bottle



Old keystone



Old quilt

The date and venue are yet to be decided, but expressions of interest are being called for now, as numbers will be limited.

The workshop will be held in two parts over two separate days. The first part would be without computers, talking about and possibly identifying items brought in or from photos brought in. The second part would be using computers and setting up recording in eHive. Sessions would be between 9.30am and 12.30pm.

There would be a small charge for attendance, and morning tea would be provided. The workshop will complement the MUSE workshops currently run by Gay Hendriksen, Museums Advisor the Blue Mountains City Council.

Inquiries: [committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au](mailto:committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au)

## **Annual General Meetings**

### **Colo Shire Family History Group Inc**

*Meeting held 16<sup>th</sup> September 2023*

- President: Carolynne Cooper
- Vice President: Joy Shepherd
- Secretary: Neil Renaud
- Treasurer: Maree Windress
- Committee: Robyne Ayres, Wanda Deacon, Glen Townsend

### **Museums Meet – final for 2023**

As we move closer to the end of the year it is time for the final Museum Meet for 2023. This workshop will provide handy hints on photographing your collection items.



**Save the date – 15<sup>th</sup> November, 9am to 1pm  
at the Blue Mountains City Council Chambers**

Attendees can think of the meeting also as the beginning of the Christmas cheer ..... a little wassailing (without the heated wine!!). There will be more information and an agenda coming soon.

Also, at this time of year you would be asked for an overview of your achievements, challenges and activities in your organisation before the meeting so that Gay can share with Museums & Galleries NSW. Gay would need this before the meeting.

As always this is a good chance to catch up with each other and see how everyone is going with their museums, collections and organisations.

Looking forward to seeing you there. RSVP to Gay by the 10<sup>th</sup> of November.

*Gay Hendriksen, The Rowan Tree Heritage and Cultural Services*

Email: [rowantree.hc@gmail.com](mailto:rowantree.hc@gmail.com)

Web: <http://www.therowantree.com.au>

### **Celebration of Bangadyi Nawi & opening of canoe exhibit**

You are invited to the celebration of Bangadyi Nawi and the opening of a canoe exhibit at Hawkesbury Regional Museum, the home of the Hawkesbury Historical Society. The Museum warmly invites you to the opening from 11am till 1pm Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

- Welcome to Country would be undertaken by Erin Wilkins

- Official opening: 11.30am with Clr. Barry Calvert, Deputy Mayor, Hawkesbury City Council

Bangadyi Nawi was a community project between Hawkesbury Regional Museum, the Dharug community and Brewongle Environmental Education Centre. The project provided a transformative experience for local Aboriginal high school students who created a traditional canoe during an intergenerational camp, led by Elder Uncle Dean Kelly and with Uncle David Payne and Dharug Educator Erin Wilkins.



*Warrawi Yana Nura students with staff from Colo, Hawkesbury & Richmond High Schools*



As a new exhibit, the canoe will shape learning opportunities for the whole community. Join them on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November to celebrate this project and the launch of the canoe as part of the Museum's permanent exhibitions. Light refreshments would be provided.

Learn more and RSVP: <https://hawkesburymuseum.eventbrite.com>

Hawkesbury Regional Museum, 8 Baker Street, Windsor 2756

Ph: 02 4560 4655

Email: [museum@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:museum@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)

### **Victoria Pass & Berghofer's Pass Heritage Listing**

Blue Mountains City Council's Heritage Planner, Sara Reilly advises the following:

The Heritage Council of NSW resolved at its meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023, to give notice of its intention to consider listing Victoria Pass and Berghofer's Pass on the State Heritage Register (SHR) in acknowledgement of its heritage significance to the people of New South Wales.

Any members of the community, owners, managers, organisations or other interested parties are invited to make a written submission regarding the proposed listing and significance of Victoria Pass and Berghofer's Pass. Submissions should be posted or emailed to the Heritage Council of NSW at the following address during the public submission period closing on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023:

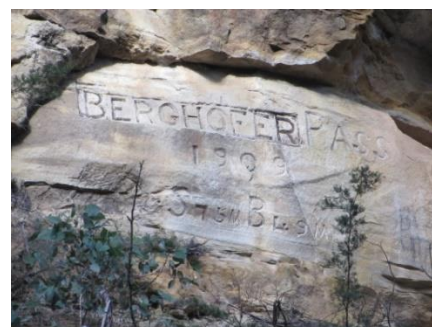
- Post: Heritage Council of NSW Locked Bag 5020 PARRAMATTA NSW 2124
- Email: [heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au)



*Victoria Pass causeway 2015*



*JW Berghofer*



*Inscription on rock along Berghofer's Pass*



*Victoria Pass and Berghofer's Pass may be of State heritage significance for its historic, associative, technical, research and rarity values. Together the Victoria Pass and Berghofer's Pass demonstrate the development of transportation across the Blue Mountains. The Victoria Pass causeway in particular is an icon of NSW road transport and a rare example of early 19th century road engineering work that is still in use.*

*These roads demonstrate the evolution of road building and the rise of the motorcar in NSW. The Victoria Pass causeway is an outstanding example of the techniques, standards and practice of road engineering in the colony during the early colonial era and Berghofer's Pass provides a counterpoint in its gentler incline, more suited to early motorcar engines, and its economical local council funded construction.*

*Victoria Pass and Berghofer's Pass together demonstrate the full history of an iconic mountain route in NSW, in a distinctive setting, opening to scenic views to and from the Bathurst Plain. The Victoria Pass causeway demonstrates the early colonial era of road building in NSW including the expansion of the road network by Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell, using convict road gangs. The engineering feat of constructing the Victoria Pass provides tangible evidence of the colonial NSW desire to be seen as an organised and economically powerful state, able to play an important role in the British Empire.*

*More information about the proposed state listing, and about making a submission on Council's website may be found at:*

*<https://www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/public-notice>*

*<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/heritage/request-a-heritage-listing/nominate-an-item-for-listing-on-the-state-heritage-register/comment-on-nominations>*

### **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 not to be reissued until funds are available.

*Reminder: 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](mailto:committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au)

*If you are a member and you would like further information, or if you would like to become a member, please email BMACHO at [committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au](mailto:committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au)*

*For general information about BMACHO and the Trail, see <http://heritagedrive.com.au> or [www.facebook.com/GBMHeritageTrail](https://www.facebook.com/GBMHeritageTrail)*

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



*Merry Christmas*

## BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

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

**Email:** [committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au](mailto:committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au) or [j.koperberg@bigpond.com](mailto: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; Eleanor Dark Foundation - Varuna Writers' House; Everglades Historic House & Gardens; Friends of the Paragon Inc; Glenbrook & District Historical Society Inc; Hartley Historic Site, NPWS NSW; 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; Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum; Woodford Academy Management Committee; Zig Zag Railway Co-op Ltd.

The following are individual members: Wendy Blaxland, Fiona Burn, Philip Hammon, Dr Wayne Hanley, Gay Hendriksen, Ian Milliss, Patsy Moppett, Keith Painter, Dr Peter Rickwood, and Dr Robert Strange.

**Committee:** The management committee for 2023-2024 (from March 2023) is: Rod Stowe (President); Patsy Moppett (Vice President), Patsy Moppett (Secretary and Newsletter Editor), Philip Hammon (Treasurer), Dick Morony (Membership Secretary), Jan Koperberg (Public Officer/Correspondence Secretary/ Events and Venue Co-ordinator), Roy Bennett, Fiona Burn.

**Finance sub-committee:** Jan Koperberg, Fiona Burn, Ian Kendall.

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