

Heritage

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Heritage Organisations Inc*

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Acknowledgement of Country

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

A Walk in The Jungle

In 1789 Lieutenant Dawes and his companions went exploring across the Nepean River seeking to scale the Carmarthen Hills. They found the going too tough and returned, having reached Mt Twiss. They sighted several other hills, one of which was Mt Tomah. The ruggedness of the terrain saw no development in this direction by the colony, until long after the first successful crossing of the mountains, when the governor granted the land around Mt Tomah to Countess Susannah Bowen and to her son George Bowen in 1830. Other land grants were made in the vicinity at the time. Susannah left for England in 1836 and the property became her son's. He subsequently moved to Windsor and in 1838 auctioned the land. It was supposedly purchased by friend George Bartley but was offered for sale again in 1954 by Bowen, when it did not sell. The land then passed to George Bowen's son George Bartley Bowen, who built Mt Tomah Cottage there in the 1860s, within what is now the Botanic Gardens. GB Bowen tried unsuccessfully to establish a dairy in 1893 and then sold the property to Philip Charley (Broken Hill silver mining) of *Belmont*, Richmond in 1895.

Until the 1870s the Mount Tomah area was barely accessible by wheeled vehicles and as a result Bells Line of Road remained little more than a droving route. During the period of absentee land ownership by Bowen and Charley there were still property managers on site and nearby. By 1918 only the chimney of Mt Tomah Cottage remained. Moving forward, by 1928 a 'walk in the jungle' in NSW could have taken you up to Mt Tomah. A popular tourist destination by then was a 700 acre property at 4000ft above sea level, about 66 miles from Sydney and 15 miles out from Kurrajong. It fronted the Bell's Line of Road, half way between Kurrajong and Bell. Known as *The Jungle*, it attracted many visitors, and included tearooms, a petrol bowser, parking area, and walking tracks to beautiful features such as the *Temple of Nature*, a mystical glow worm-filled grotto lined with tree ferns, sandstone pagodas and rainforest trees.

In 1928 the refreshment rooms were new and afforded fine panoramic views. A visitor to the place described the tearooms as a picturesque place painted green and white, with wide verandahs and green blinds.

By 1930 these 'famous' refreshment rooms were well established and in the care of Ralph and Jessie Wilson, the feature being described as a *very pretty place*. The camping and picnicking reserve was listed in *Camp Notes for Tourists*, and stated that refreshments, water and wood were available at a moderate charge *in pretty bush surroundings*. All this brought some publicity to *The Jungle* and a brochure was produced in 1930.

The Wilsons were followed as managers by the Burrows, then by the Lamberts and finally by Mr and Mrs Bert Pierce. The bushland was the subject of many superlative comments from visitors to the area, who described in detail the flora and fauna which abounded throughout. *the place has to be seen to be believed, so bewildering is its beauty*.

However, the tea room business did not flourish, and it closed in 1934. In 1935 Philip Charley's son Wolford Charley, who had been given title to *The Jungle* area, moved into the tea-room premises. In time Wolford sold off parts of *The Jungle*, and other cottages were established during the 1940s. For a time, *The Jungle* was kept open on the private property and the walks were open to paying visitors.



The Jungle, Mt Tomah

Previously, in the 1920s the landowner of the by then 280-hectares of warm temperate rainforest, adjacent to what is now the Mt Tomah Botanic Gardens, was made an offer by a timber company wanting the trees for timber. The forest in the vicinity was already the subject of some timber collection by Peck and Hungerford and some small farms had been established. However, the landowner Philip Charley was also considering subdividing the land for settlement. Concerned citizens decided to act when the State government refused on several occasions to resume the land as a national reserve due to insufficient funding.

Back in July 1927 the land had been purchased by a group of gentlemen for a reserve for £5000, half of which would be raised through £25 - £100 shares. The rest would be raised by using a mortgage to be repaid from the expected revenue from the tea house, together with sheds and parking area, to be built and operated on the site for use by the members at first and then for the general public. The company formed was The Jungle Ltd, who called for subscribers to the creation of a national park in the forest at Mt Tomah, in an area already known as *The Jungle*. It was to be developed as a weekend

and holiday resort, and subscribers would be entitled to life passes giving them free access to the grounds and drives, and also camping rights in the forest areas. The directors were The Hon Sir George Fuller, The Hon AC Carmichael, Mr TE Rofe, Mr AE Daking-King, Mr FC Peck, Mr RB Walker and Mr PJ Campbell. The Secretary was Mr J Cunningham-Browne.

Four shareholders who lived close by, formed a committee and sought to ensure that the area was not neglected. A deputation continued to wait on the government, including the Blue Mountains Shire, the NRMA and the Forestry League, but to no avail.

The Jungle, Ltd., to establish and conduct a recreation ground, with hostel, shops, etc., at Mt. Tomah. Capital, £10,000. Subscribers: T. E. Rofe, P. Charley, J. A. Murdoch, A. Rickards, T. J. Marks, Kelso King, R. B. Walker. Sydney, 23/7/27.

Evening News 21st July 1927

One of the supporters of the scheme had been Sir James Oswald Fairfax. One specific bushwalk through the trees took you down from the tea rooms to a natural amphitheatre called the *Temple of Nature* some distance below the main gorge. The official opening of this walk was subsequently carried out on 23rd March 1929 by the State Governor Sir Dudley de Chair, through the dedication of the Fairfax Walk, a memorial to the late Sir James Fairfax, who had passed away suddenly the previous year. Sir Dudley described the reserve as *a portion of native bush that for real natural beauty exceeded anything he had seen anywhere in the State*. A plaque was erected on the day to mark the occasion.



Sir James Oswald Fairfax



Memorial plaque 1929

Sir James Fairfax was born in 1863 in Sydney to Sir James Reading Fairfax and his wife Lucy (nee Armstrong). He was educated at Sydney Grammar School and Balliol College, Oxford, and was called to the Bar of the Inner Temple in 1886. He was admitted to the colonial Bar on his return to Sydney in February 1887. In 1889 he entered John Fairfax & Sons. In 1892 he married Mabel Alice Emmeline Hixon (1871-1965).

From 1914 Fairfax was foundation chairman of the NSW division of the Australian branch of the British Red Cross Society, and during World War I he devoted himself to its affairs and fund-raising activities. In 1918 he was appointed C.B.E. and in 1926 was

knighted. He was remembered for many useful and kindly acts associated with charitable and philanthropic organizations, carried out in his quiet but authoritative way.

In 1929 at the opening of the Fairfax Walk, the Minister of Mines and Forests, Mr Chaffey, suggested that 'wealthy men' of the community were encouraged to come forward and provide dog proof fencing and patrols to protect the wildlife. Having said that, he went on to comment that he would like to see the government and local governing bodies and the citizens cooperate in obtaining for the people other areas similar to *The Jungle*.

The company was praised from various sectors of the community for its actions in saving the reserve area from logging, but the challenges they faced proved insurmountable in the long run. They had to find capital to service the mortgage interest and to pay dividends to shareholders. They faced a catch 22 whereby they needed visitor numbers to generate funds, but faced the situation that an increase in traffic and recreation areas was going to destroy the value of the place. It was suggested that if the company was not a financial success, itself may have to resort to the harvest and sale of timber to stay afloat, especially if the shareholders sold on their shares to commercially minded people who might seek to exploit the timber as well. Community feeling was that it would not be a satisfactory long term solution, and that resumption and dedication by the government would be the only way to guarantee permanent retention as a national park.

The company's Annual Report of January 1931 did not sound promising, with a special committee being elected to review their financial position. Results of publicity undertaken to promote the reserve were not available and nominations to fill the position of directors appeared to be slow.

With the depressed economy of that time the business closed in 1934. It was hoped *The Jungle* would become Sydney's first national park in the west, however, the national park never eventuated and during the Great Depression the land was passed back to the Charley family.

Later that year Alfred and Effie Brunet purchased 33 acres of *The Jungle* land where the Botanic Gardens are now located and set up a cut flower garden to supply the Sydney market.

The following year the Wild Life Preservation Society (a minor shareholder of The Jungle Ltd) expressed concern in regard to the precarious condition of the area re public ownership. They pointed out that the community was of the misunderstanding that the land was already a State reserve but stated that urgent action was required by the government and the public if the jungle remnant was to become permanent public property.

At this time the idea had the support of many in the community, and The Sun stated in August 1935 that:

'The Jungle is' a National beauty spot – a wonderful treasure grove of Australia's grand rainforest trees, ferns, palms and wild flowers. It should be preserved for posterity; the hand of the axe man must be stayed.

In 1938 the Wild Life Preservation Society raised the matter again, being concerned that the land had by then reverted back to the original owner, who when approached to part with a section of *The Jungle* at a price equal to the amount already paid to him, he refused, which he was quite within his rights to do so. This was disappointing for all

concerned even though the owner stated that he intended to maintain the reserve as a private one for public benefit. He had made some 'improvements' but these may not have been appropriate, and details could not be elicited by the Society.

In 1939 the Aboriginal heritage* of the area was acknowledged through the reproduction of some of the tree and rock carvings in the reserve by a member of the Sydney Museum [sic]. The exercise was undertaken in an attempt to preserve the art and techniques used by the traditional owners. At this time it was a private reserve, entry by payment of a silver coin, the collection on weekdays going towards the upkeep of the reserve, and on weekends to a missionary society.

Then in 1972 the Brunets donated their 33 hectares of land to the Royal Botanic Gardens to make a cool climate botanic garden at Mount Tomah. When they donated their property, many of the original buildings were demolished or moved, and a large corrugated iron shed was moved to the adjacent property.

The Mt Tomah Botanic Gardens themselves were formally established as a Bicentennial Project, and the official opening was held on 1st November 1987. It was intended as a place of beauty where recreation was combined with scientific and educational programs.

In 2008, however, the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust, with the assistance of John and Elizabeth Fairfax, purchased the 33 hectares of the original *Jungle*, making it officially part of the Blue Mountains Botanic Garden and once again opening it to an admiring public. It was funded by a generous donation from the Fairfax's as well as the NSW Environmental Trust.

After much work, a part of the original path system was reinstated and linked to paths from the Botanic Garden. The Fairfax Walk was re-opened to the public exactly 80 years to the day by Professor Marie Bashir AC, Governor of NSW, on March 23rd 2009 and named the Lady (Nancy) Fairfax Walk in recognition of her philanthropical support for a range of community organisations. So, *The Jungle* will now remain in public hands.

Patsy Moppett

The Jungle-Mt Tomah

*The tree-ferns are as tall as trees,
Thick mosses at their feet are spread;
While, far above, the mountain breeze
Stirs the thick foliage overhead.*

*No sound, save of the waters' flow,
As through the ferns their way they make,
Down to the valley far below,
Where distant falls their music make.*

*But hark! What sound so clear and sweet
Rings through the air, from trees so high,
They overshadow the creek and meet
To form a screen from light-filled sky.*

*It is the whip-bird's clarion call,
Louder and louder yet again,
Till ferns and trees and rocks, and all
Seem echoing to that glad refrain.*

O Joyous songsters, wild and free!
 I pause your wondrous call to hear,
 And thank you for the ecstasy
 Which crowns the beauty round me here.

How oft in city's noisy street,
 Shall I this quiet place recall;
 Where tree-ferns guard the cool retreat,
 And clear bird notes ring out o'er all.

Catholic Press 1935

***Note 1:** This article briefly sets out the European occupation of The Jungle and its surrounds and its associated significance in that context. It does not include a history of the place for First Peoples, nor does it attempt to present the perspectives of Darug and Gundungurra Traditional Owners. Consultation with Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal stakeholders would be required to set down relevant histories in this regard.

Note 2: The reference list is detailed in a separate document issued with this Newsletter.

Index

A Walk in the Jungle	1
Editorial	6
James McBrien	7
Counting the People	11
Book Review: An Unsuitable Bride	14
Rex Stubbs Commemorative History Symposium 2025	15
Blue Mountains Education and Research Trust - Super Book Sale!	16
NSW Heritage Grants Program 2025–27	16
Presentation: School Tours of your Museum	17
Presentation: Telling Stories	17
BMACHO Members' Annual General Meetings	18
The Theatrical World at Everglades	20
Blue Mountains History Conference 2025	21



From the Editor

Welcome to the New Year edition of *Heritage*, with a slightly new design! As mentioned in the previous issue of *Heritage*, in 2024 BMACHO faced some challenges for its future, as do many other organisations who struggle for volunteers and funding. BMACHO was long overdue for the formulation of a Strategic Plan to guide our operations and activities in line with our stated Aims and Objectives, and we would like to share our own experiences with self-analysis, encouraging members to look at their own operations and carry out their own evaluations and assessments.

We undertook this exercise late in 2024 in order to ascertain whether our previous operations were still relevant and useful to our Members, and to determine how we could continue with so few volunteers and lack of funding opportunities.

As BMACHO is an umbrella organisation, with no specific premises, no collection or library archive as such, we do not qualify for the criteria which underlie many of the grants being offered at all three levels of government. Our primary function is collection and dissipation of historical and cultural information to/from our Members and providing opportunities for networking. Income generation, even for administrative costs, has been low and our committee is now quite small (there are vacant positions on the general Committee if anyone is interested!). Luckily our key Committee positions have been filled.

The Strategic Plan journey was assisted by a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) tool which enabled us to look honestly and closely at our activities and see how best we can move forward. This was a very valuable undertaking and has given us new directions and confidence in our organisation, given the same limiting factors of volunteers and funding. We were not able to have specific meetings to discuss the issues, but placed it on our monthly Agenda, considered it there, and sought feedback from the Committee through this discussion and via email. We also broached the subject during opportunistic encounters with various individuals from amongst our Members, and sought advice from founding Members of BMACHO.

The final Strategic Plan was endorsed by the Management Committee at its meeting in December 2024, and has been posted on our website. It is a simple and short document and although professional assistance can be sought in the process, we managed to undertake it through the Management Committee and the abovementioned feedback and advice.

We would encourage any organisations struggling with future direction to have a go at this process. The time taken is very valuable in terms of a positive result for the future of your group.

So full steam ahead into 2025 and we are looking forward to catching up with each of our member organisations and individual Members at some stage during the coming year. Opportunities abound with two presentations (February and March) planned by BMACHO as well as the Blue Mountains History Conference in May. In addition, the activities of Members will draw us all out into the community to see what everyone is getting up to.

We wish you a safe, happy and prosperous New Year!!

James McBrien

Surveyor James McBrien (1799-1841) was instructed to resurvey George Evans' route across the Blue Mountains in 1823.

James was born in Enniskillen, County Fermanagh, Ireland, to Thomas and Elizabeth McBrien. It was there that he trained to be a Land Surveyor. He left Ireland and travelled to Sydney c1821.¹

On the 19th February 1822, Surveyor General John Oxley recommended James McBrien as competent to perform part of duties of office vacated by James Meehan, Deputy Surveyor General to the Governor General Sir Thomas Brisbane as Assistant Surveyor.

The appointment was confirmed, with his starting salary being £150 per annum (with no housing or rent allowance).²

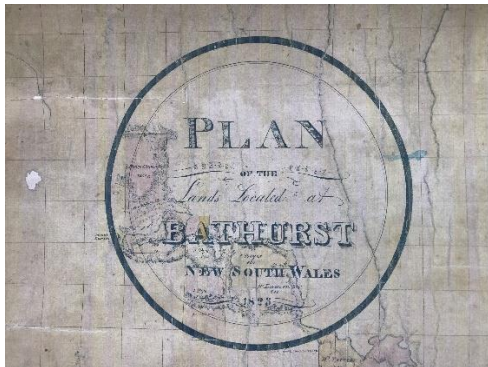
The Sydney Gazette and NSW Advertiser 12th July 1822, p. 1, records, “Mr. James Mc Brien is appointed an Assistant in the Surveyor General’s Department from the 1st Instant, with a salary of Four Shillings and Six pence per Diem, vice Mr. James Meehan, resigned.”

After Governor Macquarie and his entourage had followed Cox’s Road across the mountains, and Macquarie had proclaimed the town of Bathurst on the 4th May 1815, there were many settlers wanting to follow and claim land. So it was that Surveyor General John Oxley tasked McBrien to resurvey the line of the Western Road (Great Western Highway) from Emu Plains to Bathurst. In surveying the Western Country, he was to divide the land in the neighbourhood of Bathurst into square miles, and place grantees in possession of their grants.

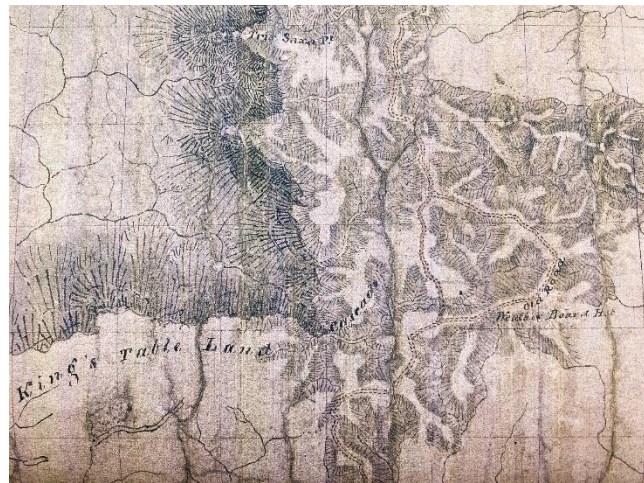
McBrien’s Field book No.205 records:

“January 27th 1823. Began a Survey of the present or existing line of Road from Emu plains to Bathurst. Commencing at the Government Wharf on the West side of the Nepean River.”

McBrien’s survey generally followed George Evans’ line across the Blue Mountains, including the line along Blaxland Road, Wentworth Falls and down Cox’s Road at Mount York.



A



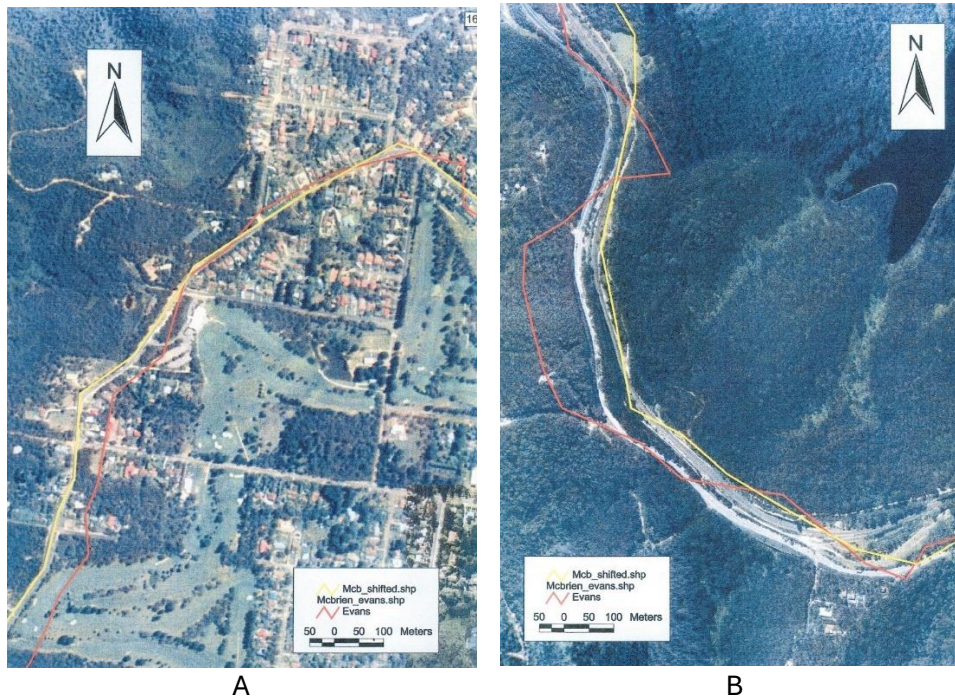
B

A: Plan of the Lands Located at Bathurst New South Wales 1823. Even though this 1823 map is unsigned a later, Plan of the Lands Located at Bathurst 1824 in the exact same style is signed G. C. Stewart Sydney NSW.

B: Section of the 1823 map near Wentworth Falls. Note the 1823 map was a base map in which additions were added up to the 1890s, which included the current line of the highway through Wentworth Falls and the older, original Cox’s Road marked as, “Old Road.” The text *Tria Saxa Pt.* is the original name for The Three Sisters.

Surveyor William Govett in November 1831, on his map *Plan of Western Road and Blue Mountains from Springwood, Mt. York, Grose River etc.*, Sheet 1 of 3 sheets, recorded

Hobby's Reach along Blaxland Road as 'Old Road' and the main road as per today's current line of the highway through Wentworth Falls.



A: Map of Wentworth Falls showing both Evans survey (in red) and McBrien's survey (in yellow) along Blaxland Road, Wentworth Falls.

B: Map of Evans (in red) and McBrien's (in yellow) survey line through Medlow Bath.

One very notable entry in McBrien's field book, 15th February 1823, is where he recorded:

At 81 chains 50 links to river, and marked gum tree. At this place I found numerous particles of gold in the sand in the hills convenient to the river" (Fish River).

The discovery alerted the British Government to the presence of gold but, as NSW was still partly a penal colony, it was decided to keep the news of the discovery quiet in order to preserve the British Government's goal of creating a stable and orderly society.

The Carcoar Chronicle 29th April 1932, p. 4 recorded:*The pioneer Surveyor of the West was James McBrien who measured the first homesteads on Bathurst Plains (1823).*

Upon McBrien's return to Sydney, his notes and field book were assigned to George Charles Stewart draughtsman, Surveyor General's Department. Stewart compiled the map - *Plan of the Lands Located at Bathurst New South Wales 1823.*³

On the 27th August 1824 John Oxley issued instructions to Surveyor McBrien for a survey to be made of the Shoalhaven River and neighbouring coast line. McBrien's entries when near Shoalhaven, in 1824, give some idea of the amount of adjusting which had to be resorted to owing to the variation and irregularities of the old link-chain. One entry reads: *These traces are taken with a chain sixteen inches too long.*⁴

Ulladulla and Milton Times 19th August 1916, p. 1 recorded:*Surveyor James McBrien visited Shoalhaven and Jervis Bay in 1824. This was the surveyor who in February, 1823 when on the Fish River, above Bathurst, first recorded the discovery of Gold in Australia.*

James McBrien's stay in Australia was very short, on the 17th May 1826, on the ship *Mangles* he sailed back to London.⁵

It is unclear what family circumstances had precipitated his return to Great Britain and thence back to Ireland. According to some sources he had returned home to marry his fiancée Margaret Eaton (1807-1883). Either she did not want to initially travel to Australia nor come back to Australia with him. Before James left Ireland for Sydney, they had a son whom they named Australia McBrien. Margaret must have only been 14 or 15 years old. They went on to have six more children after James returned home. After James death, aged 42 in 1841, Margaret and her children emigrated to Ontario, Canada, where she had other family.⁶

Back in Great Britain, in 1826 James wrote to Earl Bathurst seeking assistance in securing a grant of land in the antipodean colony on favourable terms:

My Lord,

I most respectfully beg leave to address your Lordship and state, that I was appointed Assistant Surveyor of Crown Lands to the Surveyor General of the Territory of New South Wales (John Oxley Esqr.) at the resignation of Mr. James Meehan, formerly Deputy Surveyor General, and that I have acted in that capacity during the administration of His late Excellency Sir Thomas Brisbane; K.C.B., to whom I beg leave to refer your Lordship for a testimony of my zeal and faithful discharge of my duty in that department.

But, family circumstances rendering it imperative on me to return to Europe, and now being disposed to return to that Colony [NSW –ed.], I hope your Lordship will be pleased to cause a grant of land to be made to me of such extent, as your Lordship shall think fit. I beg to state that I have property in that Colony to the value of fifteen thousand Spanish dollars. I have, therefore, to request that your Lordship may be pleased to order me a grant of Land, and entertain a hope that, from my services you will be pleased to exempt such grant from the Conditions relative to the payments of quit Rent, that is to say, five per cent, per annum on the Value of the land selected which payment amounts nearly to the purchase of the fee simple inheritance. Relative to my services for a period of four years and six months, I can confidently refer your Lordship to Sir Thomas Brisbane or Fredrick Goulburn Esqr., lately Colonial Secretary.

I further beg leave to request that your Lordship may be pleased to grant me permission to purchase from the Colonial Government five thousand acres of land in New South Wales Territory.

*I have, &c.,
James McBrien⁷*

Under Secretary Hay soon replied:

*Under Secretary Hay
Downing Street*

26th October, 1826

Sir,

I am directed by Earl Bathurst to acquaint you, in reply to your letter of the 17th Instant, that your application for a Grant of Land in New South Wales will be forwarded to the Governor of that Colony, who will no doubt make you such a Grant as will be in proportion to your Capital; but I am, at the same time, to observe that your services in the Surveyor's Department can by no means be considered as entitling you to a Grant of Land upon any other terms than those specified in the enclosed Memorandum.

*I am, &c.,
R W Hay*

Landownership

James advises Under Secretary Hay, *to state that I have property in that Colony.* There is also the record for McBrien in the Colonial Secretary Index, lists of persons who have received warrants for the purchase of Crown Lands.⁸ NSW Government Gazette 1st April 1835, p. 178 records *land charted to James MacBrien; on the south-west by the old road.* This reference is near the locality of Whiterock, Parish of Kelso. The Sydney Morning Herald 5th May 1846, p. 4, records *Court of Claims. Chambers, and M'Carthy. 1000 acres, in the county of Roxburgh, and parish of Kelso. This land, it would appear, was located in pursuance of an order of Sir T. Brisbane, dated 28th September, 1825, in favour of James McBrien, who it is alleged sold to Jonathan Hassall, who sold to J. T. Hughes, who mortgaged to claimants.*

The author has researched Historical Lands Records Viewer, NSW Land Titles Vol. Fol., Parish of Kelso and Land Grant Index 1792-1826, and has not turned up any evidence of land ownership at Kelso (who incidentally currently lives at Kelso) or anywhere else to McBrien.

Lasting legacy

James McBrien's lasting legacy in Australia is that he was the first to find and record gold in the colony in 1823. It was to be another 28 years at Ophir near Orange in 1851 that payable gold was officially recorded, becoming the scene of Australia's first gold rush.

Brian Fox

Note: The reference list is detailed in a separate document issued with this Newsletter.

Counting the People

Census history

The first known census was taken by the Babylonians in 3800 BC, nearly 6000 years ago. In 2500 BC Egypt conducted a census to assess the labour force available for building pyramids. In about 1490 BC Israel carried out a census to count people liable for military service and taxation. From a very early period, China placed great importance on conducting the census. The first modern record of a census of population was in Canada from 1665. In the USA, the first census was taken in 1790. Both England and France began conducting regular censuses in 1801, while in Norway, censuses began in 1815.

The word '*census*' has its origins in ancient Rome, coming from the Latin word '*censere*', meaning estimate.



The Roman census

In the Roman Republic a position was appointed as Censor. Each five years it was their duty to maintain the census, oversee certain aspects of the government's finances (including the superintendence of public buildings and the erection of all new public works) and to supervise public morality, from which their duties and privileges could be listed. It was first instituted between 575 and 535 BC and was a political position of great power. The citizens were summoned by a public crier to appear before the censors. Each tribe was called up separately, and the names in each tribe were probably taken according to the lists previously made out by the tribunes of the tribes. Everyone had to appear in person before the censors.

Obviously today our censors do not have these same duties, and they do not ask the population to come to them!! However, they still undertake a register of the population and seek personal details, property, stock and many other relevant matters. So from early times man has undertaken to record such details in order to facilitate the running of the country, state or province.

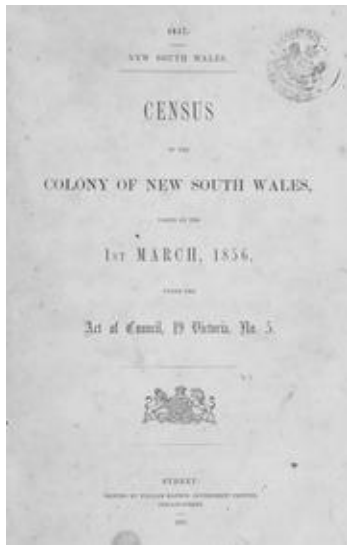
Colonial musters

When New South Wales was first settled the process undertaken by the colonial administration was referred to as a muster, although this did not occur fully until initiated by Governor Hunter in 1795. It was first established to number the people as a means of assessing whether the Colony would be able to maintain itself without assistance from the stores, and also as a control over the convict population. There were counts done prior to this in both Sydney and at Norfolk Island, including Victualling Books, but copies do not survive. Musters tended to concentrate only on convicts, free settlers or landowners, and only within certain areas of the colony.

The Colonial census

Early musters were not accurate and by 1828 it was generally known that free people could not be compelled to attend general musters. The first Act for taking a Census of New South Wales was passed by the Legislative Council of New South Wales in that year under Governor Darling. The first Census was undertaken in 1828. The other

colonies followed suit over the next few years, each of the colonies conducting its own census until 1886. In NSW musters were still carried out as well until 1837.



Census 1956



Census collector at Charters Towers 1911

In 1881 the first simultaneous census of the British Empire covering the United Kingdom, India and the Crown Settlements (including Australia) was taken. The first simultaneous censuses of all the Australian colonies were taken then, forming part of the Empire census.

In 1905 the Commonwealth Government enacted the Census and Statistics Act (1905) providing that “*the Census shall be taken in the year 1911, and in every tenth year thereafter*”. The first nationally coordinated Census of Australia was taken on the night of 2nd April 1911.

Further National Censuses were held in 1921 and 1933, but the scheduled Census for 1941 was postponed due to the Australia's involvement in the Second World War. The first post-war Census was taken in 1947, followed by others 1954 and 1961. Since the 1961 Census, Australia has taken a Census every five years.

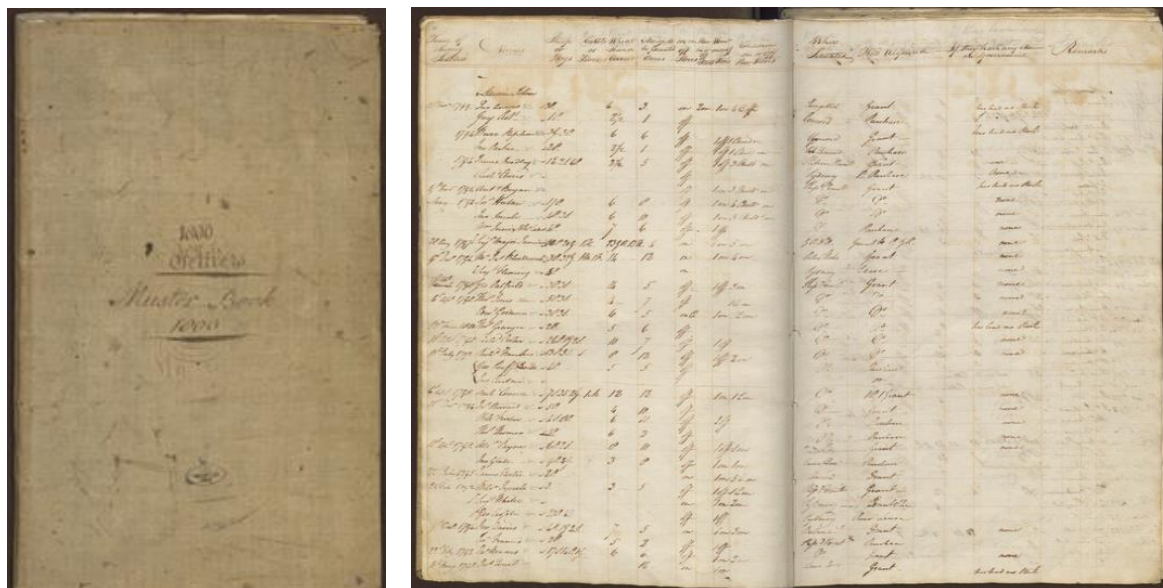
The Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics was formed, later becoming the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 1975.

A new resource

The 1800 Settlers' Muster Book is the earliest, most comprehensive record of the colony, as compiled by Governors Hunter and King to establish the demands on government resources. The Royal Australian Historical Society has recently announced that this rare surviving record of European settlers in Australia has now been digitised. They advise that *it lists the military, their convict servants, the emancipated convicts and their families It is not a complete muster but a series of lists showing how many people had to be fed, how many acres were farmed, who were the farmers, what crops were grown, and who was relying on the government to feed their convict servants.*

The digitisation is a collaboration between the NSW Parliamentary Library and Museums of History NSW and the digital copy is freely available on their websites. It is a valuable resource for those tracing family histories and those researching histories of the early colony.

Patsy Moppett



1800 Settlers Muster Book

References:

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- Census and Musters Guide: MHNSW
- Census Through the Ages: Australian Bureau of Statistics
- Launch of the Digitised Settlers' Muster Book 1800: Royal Australian Historical Society Newsletter 7th November 2024
- General Muster List of New South Wales 1823, 1824, 1825: Edited by Carol J Baxter, Biographical Database of Australia 1999
- Musters and Census: Biographical Database of Australia 1999

Book Review: An Unsuitable Bride

By Cathleen Ross

This book is a fiction romance full of secrets set in the Megalong Valley during the post WWI period and covers historically what happened in 1918.

It's 1918, the war's nearly over and people are looking for fun. Anna Hall is delighted when her wealthy, older fiancé, Max Elliot invites her on a holiday to the Hunting Lodge in the beautiful Megalong Valley, Blue Mountains. But once there, she finds everything is not as it seems.

Everyone has secrets and she soon finds herself entangled in a dangerous web of lies and deception.

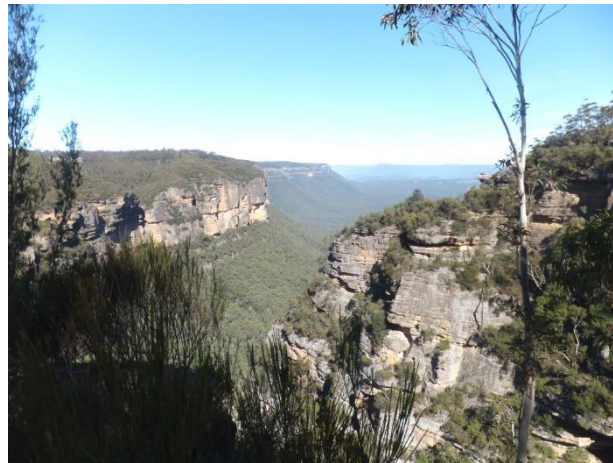
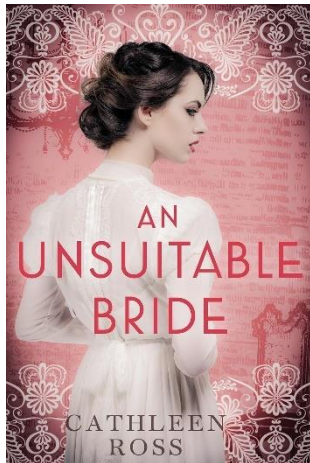
Anna has a secret too but she cannot admit it for fear of vilification.

Max has a secret that will destroy Anna's life, only he's not prepared to tell her until he's had his fun with her.

Jack-of-all-trades at the Hunting Lodge, Thomas Rutherford, has three secrets. He's fallen for Anna, knows the real story as to why her fiancé, Max can't marry her; and he also doesn't wish to admit he has shellshock and can no longer work as a doctor.

But the worst secret of all is how did Max's last fiancée, Cora Hanson die?

Will Anna be next?



Megalong Valley from the top of Nelly's Glen

Sounds like a great read for the Christmas break!

The book is available for \$27.00 from Megalong Books at Leura, Gleebooks at Blackheath, or from the author at www.cathleenross.com

The Kindle version is \$3.99, found at:

<https://www.amazon.com.au/Unsuitable-Bride-Cathleen-Ross-ebook/dp/B0CY28RKLM/>

PLEASE NOTE THE CLOSING DATE FOR ARTICLES AND NOTIFICATIONS TO THE EDITOR FOR THE MARCH-APRIL 2025 ISSUE OF HERITAGE IS
Tuesday 25th FEBRUARY 2025

Community events & updates

Rex Stubbs Commemorative History Symposium 2025

This free annual history symposium is 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 the opportunity for representatives of these 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.



The Symposium will be held on **Saturday 22nd February 2025** at the Tebbutt Room, Deerubbin Centre, 300 George Street Windsor. The event will include:

- Keynote speaker
- Project updates from Hawkesbury City Council's Arts and Culture team
- Updates from historical societies and groups
- Networking opportunities for all attendees

Be sure to save the date. Keep an eye out for registration and programming announcements coming soon.

Inquiries: Hawkesbury Arts & Culture programs@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

Blue Mountains Education and Research Trust – Super Book Sale!

BMERT at New Street, Lawson announces their Super Book Sale, with the **offer ending on 31st December 2024**.



Make your Christmas gift special. Books are a rare gift that continues to enrich, inspire and delight long after they've been opened. Their value only grows with time.

Visit their website to browse the volumes available at significant discount prices:

www.bmert.com.au

Email orders to contact@bmert.com.au

Invoice will be sent out with the order.

NSW Heritage Grants Program 2025–27

Applications are now open for the NSW Heritage Grants Program for 2025-2027. This makes available some \$8.5 million in funding for conservation of our state's heritage. Funding will be provided for projects that:

- support declared Aboriginal Place
- activate and care for items listed on the State Heritage Register
- assist local councils to protect and promote local heritage

This is an opportunity to support the conservation and activation of significant heritage sites by local councils, owners, and managers of declared Aboriginal Places and items listed on the NSW State Heritage Register. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to preserve NSW's heritage! Heritage NSW ask that we work together to conserve the legacy of NSW's State heritage and make a lasting impact on our communities. To help promote the program, Heritage NSW has created a suite of social media tiles and suggested newsletter copy, which can be easily shared across your channels. These

resources are available in a handy Dropbox folder toolkit to make it even easier to spread the word. Please help share this important funding opportunity with your networks, colleagues, and anyone who could benefit.



For more information, including eligibility and application details, visit the Heritage NSW website, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

Applications will close at 10 am Thursday 30 January 2025

For more information, including eligibility criteria and how to apply visit

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritage-grants

Presentation: School Tours of your Museum

In conjunction with Woodford Academy, BMACHO is planning a presentation at Woodford Academy on information for taking tours of school students through heritage properties and museums. This presentation can be aimed at museums but also members of the public interested in what their children can learn on school tours of heritage properties or museums.



Early image of the Academy

The event will be held on 8th February 2025, and would include a practical tour through the building, advising how large groups of 40+ students are handled and also some discussion about fitting within the school curriculum. This tour will be led by Yvonne Kattell, who has led many groups of students through Woodford Academy.

Further details will be provided by BMACHO closer to the date.

Presentation: Telling Stories

A few years ago (2016) BMACHO's conference at Mt Victoria had the theme of 'Artefact', when we were treated to a fascinating day of story telling by numerous speakers who captured our imagination. We heard stories relating to artefacts from coal mining to quilting, an antique watch and the Gardner's Inn keystone, Scottish castles, and collections at the Hawkesbury and Gunnedah museums. The outcome of

the day was the production of *Occasional Papers No. 2 Artefact*, which brought all those stories together. See the BMACHO website.



Artefacts from Tarella, Wentworth Falls

BMACHO is set to hold a half day event on 11th March 2025 at the Hub at Springwood to allow people to once again tell their stories. We urge you to drag out the family or town memorabilia and bring it along with a short story describing its provenance. It could be a photo, or an old tool, some jewellery or a doll, a precious book, a certificate or a pipe! Each speaker would be given about 10-15 minutes to share their tale of days gone by.

Final details for the above two BMACHO presentations will be further advised via email to your organisation. BMACHO inquiry details are provided on page 23 of this issue.

BMACHO Members' Annual General Meetings

Glenbrook & District Historical Society

Meeting held 18th September 2024

- President: Denis Bainbridge
- Vice Presidents: Doug Knowles, Joan Peard
- Secretary: Denis Bainbridge
- Treasurer: Anton von Schulenburg
- Committee: Ian Dingwell, John Dikeman, Elizabeth Saxton
- Public Officer: Anton Von Schulenburg
- Chief Historian: Joan Peard

Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society

Meeting held 9th November 2024

- President: Malcolm Reynolds
- Vice President: Vacant
- Secretary: Vacant
- Treasurer: David Howell
- Committee: Des Barrett, David Howell, Peter Raines, Peter Resanceff
- Public Officer: Des Barrett

Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park Museum

Meeting held 23rd November 2024

- President: Ray Christison
- Vice President: Michael Langford
- Secretary: Ian Rohr (pending)
- Treasurer: Jenni Christison

- Public Officer: Ray Christison
- Committee: Denis Fowler, Ian Rohr, John Zeni, Shane Anderson, Bruce Hodsdon, Ieun Batchelor
- Auditor: Shelley June Rodwell
- Life member 2024: Michael Langford

Blue Mountains Family History Society

Meeting held 8th November 2024

- President: Ann Krasney
- Vice President: Anne Deverell
- Secretary: Helen Allan
- Treasurer: Ian Kendall
- Committee: Alison Tissington Christine Wenman

Springwood Historical Society

Meeting held 15th November 2024

- President: Peter Chinn
- Vice President: Doug Knowles
- Secretary: Dick Morony
- Treasurer: Jeff Moonie

Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum

Meeting held 2nd November 2024

- Chair: Alan Holley
- Secretary and membership officer: Grant Robinson
- Treasurer: Serge Sequen
- Property and Perway manager: Ted Dickson
- Exhibits manager: Sue Fulton
- Events and promotions manager: Andrew Tester
- Retail manager: Keith Ward
- Workshop manager: Terry Matchett

Honorary Positions

- Honorary Librarian: Andrew Tester
- Honorary Historian: Ted Dickson

Patrons:

- Susan Templeman, Member for Macquarie
- Trish Doyle, Member for Blue Mountains
- Cr Mark Greenhill, Mayor, Blue Mountains City Council

National Trust Blue Mountains Branch

Meeting held 3rd November 2024

- Chair: Rod Stowe
- Deputy Chair: Gary Sturgess
- Secretary: Dr Rob Strange
- Treasurer: Michael Anstiss
- Committee Member & Newsletter editor: Adrian Howie
- Committee Member: Gay Hendriksen

Woodford Academy

Meeting held 11th December 2024

- Chair: Kate O'Neill
- Vice Chair: Beata Geyer
- Secretary: Robert Strange
- Committee: Margaret Harrison; Yvonne Kattell; Trudi Cooper

Friends of the Paragon

Meeting held 26th November 2024

- President: Rob Strange
- Vice President: Joseph Moore
- Secretary: Carlene Martin
- Treasurer: Robert Trenchard-Smith
- Curator: Linsi Braith
- Committee: Hal Ginges, Mark Tedeschi

The Theatrical World at Everglades

2025 is the year for entertainment in the mountains!!

A new exhibition has been established at Everglades exploring the theatrical world in the Everglades garden. The display features historical photos and ephemera in the upstairs exhibition space within the House and commenced 11th December 2024. It will run through until 10th October 2025.

Since the 1930s, Everglades has delighted audiences with hundreds of outdoor theatre performances at the sandstone arch in the amphitheatre, and the gardens have been the spectacular backdrop for everything from ballet, opera, orchestra, dance troupes, circus festivals, pantomime – and its famous Shakespeare performances.



Under construction 1938



Shakespeare 2020

In the 1930s and before, hundreds of indoor theatres were built across the country, whilst local drama and travelling theatre groups also performed in make-shift outdoor theatres.

The sandstone arch with a bronze relief in the centre at Everglades was originally the entrance arch to the London Chartered Bank of Australia on Sydney's George Street. A team of workmen reconstructed the archway stone by stone, utilising a series of pulleys

to lay the archway into place in 1938, thus creating the stage and backdrop which we see today.

This exhibition is timely, given the up and coming BMACHO Blue Mountains Conference in May 2025, being *The Show Must Go On!*, regarding entertainment in the Blue Mountains.

Don't forget the Shakespeare Festival at Everglades from 4th to 19th January 2025.

For further information:

Alexandra Munro, Property Manager, Everglades House & Gardens National Trust of Australia (NSW)

Phone: (02) 9258 0146

Address: 37 Everglades Avenue, Leura 2780

Web: www.nationaltrust.org.au/nsw

Email: AMunro@nationaltrust.com.au or everglades@nationaltrust.com.au

Blue Mountains History Conference 2025

The next BMACHO Bi-Annual Conference is set down for **10th May 2025**, with the theme being '*The Show Must Go On!*', covering entertainment and the arts, theatres and cultural development over the years across the Blue Mountains.

Richard White will be the keynote speaker, presenting the Ian Jack Address.

The other speakers have been confirmed and include Colin Semmler, Kate O'Neill, John Lanser, Lowell Tarling, Lorraine Corne and Robyne Ridge. Most exciting will be a radio play to be presented by Blue Mountains Radio Players!



Theatre at Everglades



Music shell at Katoomba

Outdoor entertainment in the Blue Mountains

The venue will be the Carrington Hotel at Katoomba which provides limited onsite parking, with community parking nearby, and close access to the railway station for travellers. Considerable accommodation opportunities are available at the Hotel and in the vicinity.

The Carrington, of course has been a premier venue for entertainment and the arts from its construction in 1881-1882 through to today.

Contact BMACHO for further information in the ongoing months, and/or watch for future editions of Heritage for updates. Bookings will open in early 2025.

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, see <http://bluemountainsheritage.com.au>



BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

Registered office: 1/19 Styndra Place, Springwood 2777. Ph: 0410 198 737

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 aims and 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.

Not for Profit: BMACHO is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission (ACNC).

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; 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 – Learning Centre; 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; Nepean District Historical Society Inc; Norman Lindsay Gallery and Museum; Penrith RSL Military 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: 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 2024-2025 (from March 2024) is: Patsy Moppett (President and Newsletter Editor); Rod Stowe (Vice President); Philip Hammon (Treasurer and Membership Secretary); Jan Koperberg (Secretary/ Public Officer); Roy Bennett, Fiona Burn, Dick Morony, Gay Hendriksen and Kate O'Neill.

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

Disclaimer: Views and opinions expressed in the *Heritage* Newsletter 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.