



Blue Mountains History Conference 2025 The Show Must Go On! – Blue Mountains Performance and Entertainment

The Ian Jack Address

Associate Professor Dr R Ian Jack



Senior Fellow, St Andrew's College, Sydney University and former BMACHO President

Dr R Ian Jack passed away on 4th September 2019. Ian was an Individual Member of BMACHO since its inception in March 2006, and Vice President since then until he became President in March 2019.

Ian provided regular and grass roots input into the running of BMACHO, and together with the original President John Leary (who passed away in 2014), steered the group towards the organisation it is today.

As President of BMACHO, and their representative on various other committees, he was able to provide valuable representation and feedback to the BMACHO Executive. He was on the Blue Mountains Conference subcommittee and was a regular contributor to BMACHO's Blue Mountains History Journal, and the *Heritage* Newsletter.

Following careful consideration and appreciation of sometimes conflicting points of view, Ian always presented a balanced view over a wide range of matters and his enthusiasm for concerns that he felt particularly strong about was infectious.

Ian was a consummate speaker, and his presentations were always heard with rapt attention across the Blue Mountains region and beyond. Ian was a presenter in some capacity at each of BMACHO's biannual Conferences since 2012, which included keynote speaker on two occasions.

During the process of delivering addresses about Blue Mountains and Sydney's colonial heritage, we learnt more about the man and his personal background, when he shared many stories of his own Scottish heritage, together with the history of the Scots in Australia, particularly at Lithgow.

From his residence at Windsor, together with his wife Jan Barkley-Jack, and with their involvement in that community we were kept informed about Hawkesbury happenings and things that were dear to Ian's heart, where St Matthews Church was the centre of his focus.

The inaugural Ian Jack Address was held at the Blue Mountains History Conference 8 May 2021, and it has been our policy to encompass in all future Blue Mountains Conferences.

This year the Ian Jack Address will be delivered by Associate Professor Richard White.
