

Heritage

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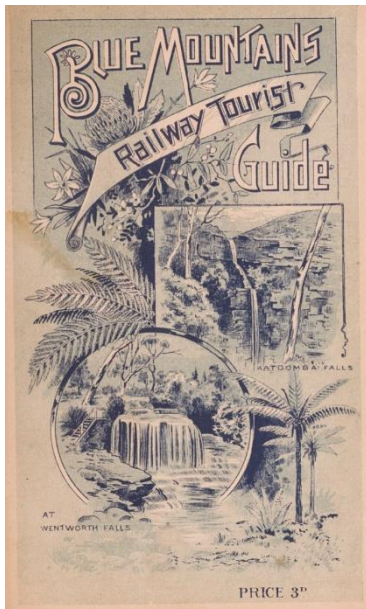
Acknowledgement of Country

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

Blue Mountains Railway Tourist Guide

Introduction

John Russell's, *The Pictorial Guide to the Blue Mountains*, published in 1882, was the earliest most comprehensive guide book of the day. The *Blue Mountains Railway Tourist Guide* of 1894 took the Blue Mountains maps contained in this article to a new level. The maps in this guide are very precise and detailed. Each map has a scale bar, hachures to denote the landforms of drainage and ridges and the text not only shows geographical place names but also fire places, tables and seats, bridges and ladders and selected elevation points.



Nelly's Glen: Sydney Mail 4th October 1890

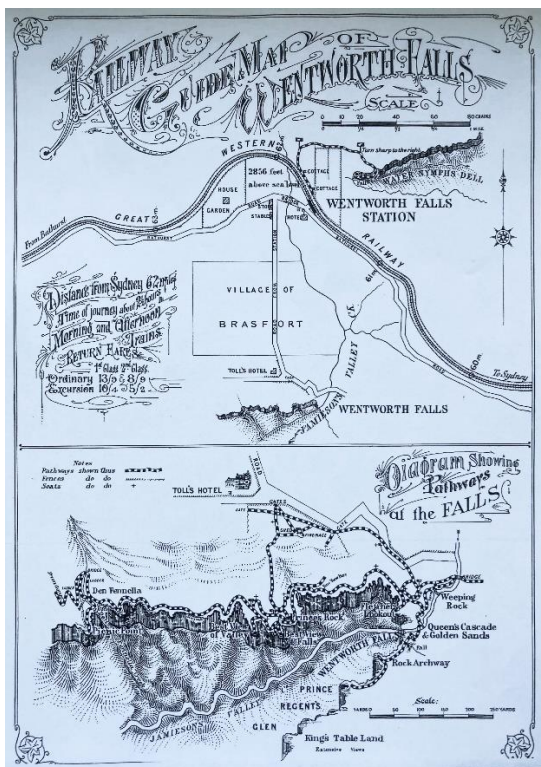
Blue Mountains Railway Tourist Guide

The *Blue Mountains Railway Tourist Guide* was instigated by the Railway Commissioners. It was published by them and was sold for 3 pence a copy. It was issued in December 1894.

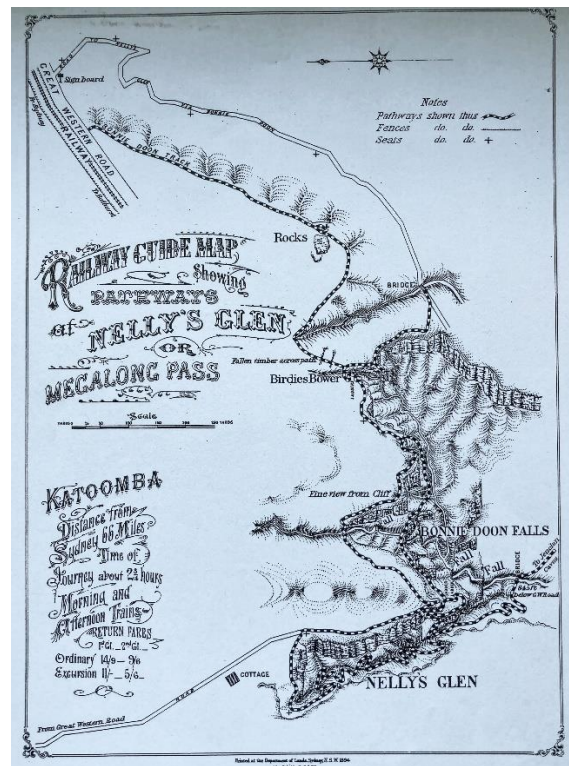
This 30-page guide book included photos supplied by the Sydney firm Charles Kerry & Co. Descriptions and advertisements included: *The Carrington Katoomba*, *Hotel Wentworth* Wentworth Falls, *Manor House* Mount Victoria and *Ivanhoe* Blackheath. Pages 6 and 7 of the Guide have complete train time-tables.

Textural information includes what to see and do at Penrith, Springwood, Hazelbrook, Wentworth Falls, Leura, Katoomba, Medlow, Blackheath, Mount Victoria and Jenolan Caves. Within this guide are five folded maps:

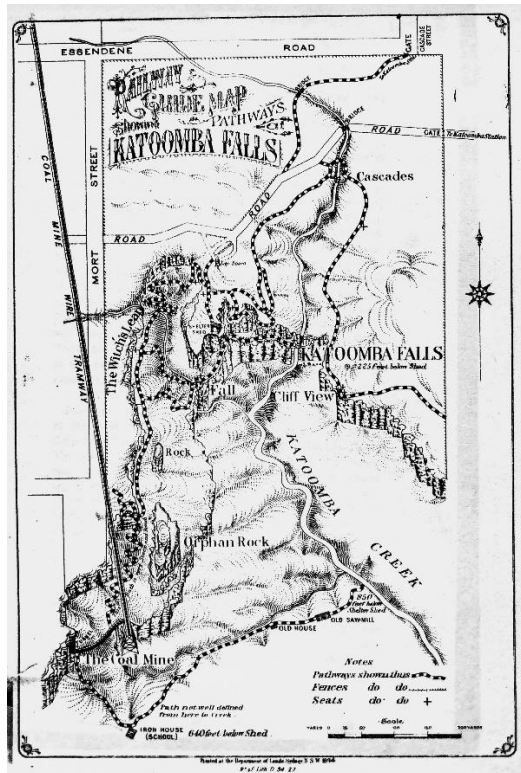
1. Railway Guide Map of Wentworth Falls: Diagram Showing Pathways at the Falls, Distance from Sydney 62 Miles, Time of Journey about 2 1/2 hours, Morning and Afternoon Trains Return Fares. *Printed at the Department of Lands NSW 1894. No. of Litho D 94.25*
2. Railway Guide Map Showing Pathways at Nelly's Glen or Megalong Pass, Distance from Sydney 66 Miles, Time of Journey about 2 3/4 hours, Morning and Afternoon Trains Return Fares. *Printed at the Department of Lands NSW 1894. No. of Litho D 94.26.*
3. Railway Guide Map Showing Pathways at Katoomba Falls
Printed at the Department of Lands NSW 1894. No. of Litho D 94.27.
4. Railway Guide Map Showing Pathways at Leura Falls
Printed at the Department of Lands NSW 1894. No. of Litho D 94.28.
5. Railway Guide Map of Katoomba District Showing Routes to Leura Falls, Katoomba Falls, Nellys' Glen, Minni Ha Ha Falls, etc.etc.
Distance from Sydney 66 Miles, Time of Journey about 2 3/4 hours, Morning and Afternoon Trains Return Fares. *Printed at the Department of Lands NSW 1894. No. of Litho D 94.29.*



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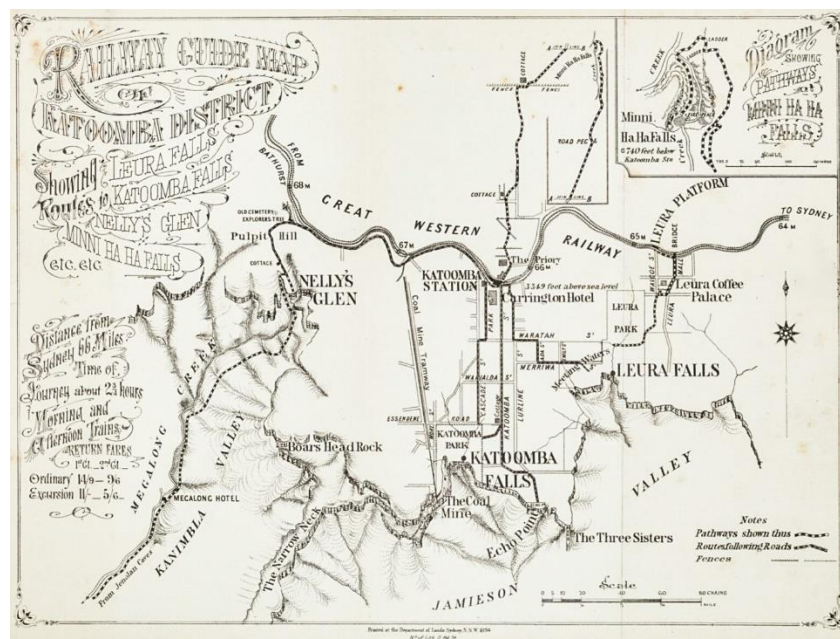
Folded map 2



Folded map 3



Folded map 4



Folded map 5

Media publicity

The Daily Telegraph, 22nd December 1894, p. 5 recorded:

"An admirable "Blue Mountain Railway Tourist Guide" has just been published by the Railway Commissioners, and is being sold at the low price of 3d. Besides excellent views of popular resorts, there are guide maps for each place, clearly and accurately prepared, and which will be found invaluable to tourists. The inclusion of these maps is a very happy idea. The views were executed in "The. Daily Telegraph" office, from photos, by Kerry and Co."

Sydney Morning Herald, 22nd December 1894, p. 8 recorded:

“Railway Tourist Guide. – The Railway Department has issued an excellent Railway Tourist Guide to the Blue Mountains. It is illustrated with some excellent maps and views of mountain scenery, and contains all the information likely to be required by visitors to this popular health resort.”

Who compiled the information and drew the maps?

From 1887 to 1895 all draftsman within the Lands Department worked in a generic section. In the following year, 1896, separate specialty branches were established depending on the type of maps to be drawn. There was a Roads Branch, Parish Map Compiling Branch, Occupation Drafting Branch, Charting Branch, Trigonometrical Survey Branch and for tourist style mapping, a Miscellaneous Division, Compiling Branch. Sixty-one draftsmen were employed in 1894. Two years later when a tourist mapping section was formed, known as the Miscellaneous Division, Compiling Branch, twenty draftsmen were allocated to that section.

But who was allocated the mapping? Quite obviously by looking at the detail on each of the maps, careful planning, research, local knowledge and familiarity of the walking tracks was required or had to be undertaken.

Researching sixty-one draftsmen with little information recorded does lead to speculation. However, due to the detailed mapping required, the location - the Blue Mountains, and focusing at the top one third of the highest draftsmen's salary, taking into account those who were allocated to the Miscellaneous Division, Compiling Branch two years later, it is possible to narrow the field to a possible three draftsmen: Ernest Stafford Vautin, Isaac le Pipre Barrow and Charles John Lester.

All three draftsmen owned land on the Blue Mountains prior to the five maps being published in 1894. Ernest Stafford Vautin was the Draftsman in Charge, Vautin purchased property at Woodford as did Isaac le Pipre Barrow. Vautin had purchased Portion 49, 15th February 1894 and one week later 22nd February, Barrow purchased his 40 acres on Portion 50. Charles Lester purchased 4 Lots of land between Ada and Burton Streets, Blackheath, 9th July 1890.

Isaac le Pipre Barrow had compiled the maps *Blue Mountains - Emu Plains to Medlow*, and *Blue Mountains - Medlow to the Great Zig Zag*, in 1889. His next recorded map was 1902, so certainly a gap within which to compile the five maps.

Ernest Stafford Vautin was the Draftsman in Charge and hence his role was supervision. For example, the *Map of Sydney and environ, New South Wales, 1892*, was compiled by A. Paton & R W Vale, and was under the supervision of E S Vautin.

Ref: Collection.sl.nsw.gov.au/record/74VKzGVXBVka

Unfortunately, we have no records of what maps Charles Lester compiled.

We can only conclude the five maps may have been compiled by Barrow and/or Barrow and Lester under the supervision of Vautin.

The next stage of the map production, once a map had been compiled was that the map was handed on to the Lithographic Branch, where the Lithographic Draftsmen drew the map onto stone in preparation for printing.

At the time of publishing there were only four men in the Department of Lands, Lithographic Branch.

- Josiah Tayler: Draftsman in Charge, Grade A2.
- John Edmund Miller Russell: Draftsman, Grade A3
- Jonathan Blenman Cobham: Draftsman, Grade A3
- Charles Steuart Christie: Grade B1

Each of the five maps when compiled was printed at the same time as evidenced by the sequential lithographic number, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29. These low numbers imply the printing was achieved in the early months of 1894. It also implies the lithographic work was carried out simultaneously, hence most likely Russell, Cobham and Christie were given the task under the supervision of Tayler the Lithographic Draftsman in Charge.

The final stage is the actual printing of the maps within the printing section of the Lands Department, Bridge Street, Sydney. This was overseen by the Government Printer, William Gullick. Coincidentally, Gullick purchased a 40 acre block of land at Woodford, where one of his boundaries coincided with Barrow's property.

Summary

Due to not having accurate records of individuals mapping tasks in the Lands Department, one is left with a lot of speculation, little factual information, and trying to piece together from various sources as to what may have occurred. Having been employed as a cartographer within the Lands Department for 40 years it does give me insight of the general mapping process.

The series of five maps were re-published in 1908 and 1909, and instead of the title being *Blue Mountains Railway Tourist Guide* they were branded as *Tourists' Sketch Map*, and issued by the NSW Immigration & Tourist Bureau, Challis House. Martin Place, Sydney. Today this collection of maps is important as it records a number of tracks no longer used; it provides an historical link to old infrastructure such as ladders, bridges and signage.

The *Blue Mountains Railway Tourist Guide* can be viewed online at State Library NSW, Sydney. Call No. DSM/981.5/N.

This series of five maps also was the source of 24 Blue Mountain place names detailed in the *Blue Mountains Geographical Encyclopaedia*.

Brian Fox

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Farrugia, Frank. *From Crow Quill to Scribing. History of Pre-Computer Mapping Lands Department NSW*, 2005.

Fox, Brian. *Isaac Barrow Blue Mountains Map Maker*, 2015.

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Lest we Forget



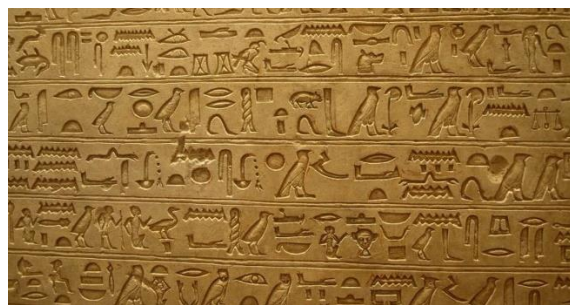
From the Editor

The Value of Oral History

When an old man dies, a library burns to the ground: old African proverb

This old proverb was repeated to me recently by historian John Low, and how true it is. Usually, it's not until we're older that we appreciate the information and wisdom in the memories of those who have come before, and older generations love to tell their stories, if only we would ask.

This issue I would like to look at oral histories. We discussed last issue the benefits of consultation with a family history society or a historical society to obtain more information about our family and/or our history. So many times during that process we have probably wished that back when our parents or grandparents or local identities were around that we had asked more questions. But many would have been occasions when we could not have known what questions to ask. Thank heavens that many people over the centuries wrote things down, scribbled in an exercise book, wrote on papyrus, drew on cave walls, carved in rock, and created hieroglyphs and stelae, to record the past.



There are a variety of groups who also pass their knowledge down via song lines, oral histories and simply story telling. The accuracy of oral histories is always subject to the characteristics and the personalities, the memory and the receptive/interpretive skills of both the storyteller and the listener, and translation from one language to another will also lose something in the process.

This does not mean that oral history is any less valuable as a research tool to investigate our past. Oral history, imparting information from one to another, can be a very personal thing. It may provide the history of a place, but it also provides a social history because it incorporates personal experiences and thoughts/opinions. The context must be ever in mind. Oral history is considered the collection and study of historical information, and is the oldest type of historical inquiry, as it predates the written word, but is also one of the most modern. As we know it, it is a method of gathering, preserving and interpreting the voices and memories of people, communities and players in past events. The modern technique (since the 1940s) is via recorded interviews, audio or visual.

Recordings of interviews are transcribed, sometimes summarised, then indexed and placed in a library or archives. These interviews may then be used for research or utilised in a publication, radio or video documentary, museum exhibition and in forms of public presentation. Recordings, transcripts, catalogues, photographs and related documentary materials can also be posted on the Internet, subject to copyright.

Oral history does not include random illicit recordings, nor does it refer to recorded speeches, wiretapping, personal diaries on tape, or other sound recordings that lack the

dialogue between interviewer and interviewee, not that these things do not contain useful information.

Existing resources

There are agencies available to us as researchers to either investigate histories already recorded, or to undertake our own oral history projects.

Oral History NSW states that oral history

- Gives a voice to the past
- Makes history human
- Enables the understanding of meaning
- Brings communities to life
- Preserves speech

Oral History NSW members include public and academic historians, students, family historians, local historical society members, heritage consultants, librarians, archivists, teachers, documentary makers, sound engineers, museum curators, volunteers, and institutions with archival or oral history programs. Their archives are accessible and details can be investigated on their website: www.oralhistorynsw.org.au

National Library of Australia's Oral History and Folklore Collection dates back to the 1950's with recordings and interviews with Australians of all walks of life. Increasingly the collection is available online or may be requested from their catalogue. Some interviews have transcripts or summaries, and their online audio delivery system helps you search the content of their collection, which can also be searched through Trove.

Local Studies, local historical societies and family history groups will also hold oral histories in their collections.

Your own project: There are a number of guidelines available including from the above, to assist you should you wish to undertake your own interviews. It can be a daunting but very exciting and rewarding experience and lead you to connect with some very special people:

- The Oral History Society of Australia holds an Ethical Practice guide (2007), which can be found online.
- The National and State Libraries Australasia holds Oral History Guidelines (2023).
- The Oral History Society gives good advice in their practice guidance document.
- *Talking History* by Sharon Veale and Kathleen Schilling provide oral history guidelines (2004).
- The Blue Mountains library too will have resources through Local Studies, who also have equipment to loan for those wishing to undertake their own interviews.

Undertaking such a project will require planning, and may be quite time consuming for individual interviewers, staff and volunteers. Training is available to help both yourself and the team, particularly with recording agreements, copyright, data protection, licensing, budgeting, archiving and embargoes.

Oral History Australia is currently planning their biennial conference *The Power of Oral History – Risks, Rewards and Possibilities*, to be held in Melbourne from 21st to 24th November 2024.

Save the date and contact ohavictoria2024@gmail.com for further information.



So don't be daunted!!! Oral history is first-hand evidence of the past and plays a crucial role in expanding archived information regarding people and their experiences. Unless we collect and save people's recollections, their unique stories could be lost. Like any historical

resource, oral histories are open to debate, analysis and interpretation, but that's what makes oral history challenging and exciting and just as valuable as other historical data.

Resurrection of Pymont Pub that was closed for 33 years

After circulation of the Jan-Feb 2024 *Heritage* Newsletter, Erik Halbert the editor of the Blue Mountains Historical Society newsletter *Hobby's Outreach* emailed to say "*Can you please pass on my congratulations to the editor of the Heritage newsletter on the quality and content. It is always a pleasure to read and usually has several items of interest.*"

Erik went on to say that he was particularly interested in the paper on the history of Pymont Bridge. He walked across that bridge twice a day for more than ten years while going to work as a research chemist in CSR Central Laboratories 1984 to 1996. The bridge always fascinated him as he has a particular interest in buildings incorporating natural rock, particularly sandstone and limestone.

He said that CSR Laboratories were located at 70 John Street, Pymont and, on the other side of the road, was a vacant block reputed to be one of the original sandstone quarries. He added that nobody seemed to know more than that and he did not have the time to properly research it. He has not been back to this location and suspects it was demolished in the development of the area.

I am constantly fascinated by the readers' memories brought to life from reading published articles.

History of the Terminus Hotel

One of my ancestors, Peter Brennan, had owned property in Pymont. When he died in 1873, he owned land on John Street Pymont, from the corner of Harris Street down to Pymont Street and from the corner of Harris Street up to Mount Street (which would have included the quarry mentioned by Erik). In 1873 when Peter Brennan died, he owned the pub on the corner of Harris and John Streets, the *Coopers Arms*, which is now the *Terminus Hotel*. There are still sections of the old *Coopers Arms* pub within the *Terminus Hotel*, which was renovated in 2016-2017 after being closed for 33 years. Most of Peter Brennan's properties were built out of stone and I am sure some of the stone would have come from the quarry opposite 70 John Street. I think there are now tennis courts on that site and there is housing on 70 John Street.

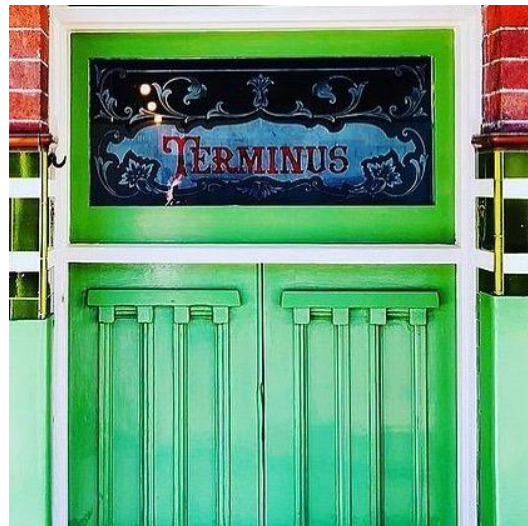
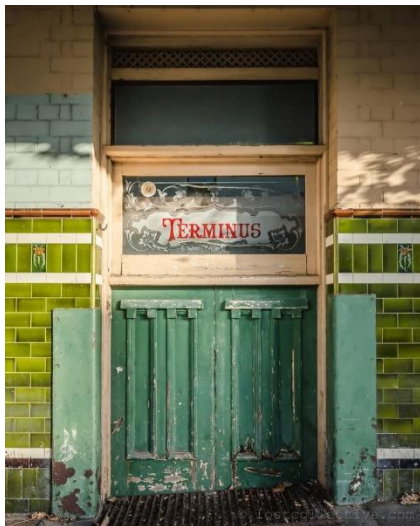
The *Terminus Hotel* on the corner of John and Harris Street was '*the pub Sydney forgot*', closed from December 1984 till 2017.

In 1841 the first land sale of the corner block took place following subdivision. The *Pymont Hotel* was built by William Allison on the land and Charles Cameron became the licensee of Pymont's first hotel on 21st December 1841. This was Pymont's first hotel (later known as the *Land's End* in the 1850s). In the photo at the end of this article, the *Pymont Hotel* (the old house) can be seen adjoining part of the 1863 *Coopers Arms* (and then *Terminus*). The house was demolished in the 1917 when the *Terminus* was extended.

In 1845 Peter Brennan established the *Coopers Arms* at what became 88 Harris Street, between John and Union Streets. In 1853 James Pratt established *Land's End* hotel in the old *Pymont Hotel* building. The license transferred to the present site of *Pymont Point Hotel* in 1857. In 1862 Peter Brennan bought the block of land, including the old *Pymont Hotel* building and commenced to build a new hotel next to it, on the corner of Harris and John Streets. In 1863 Peter Brennan moved the sign of the *Coopers Arms* from 88 Harris Street to his new building on the corner.

Peter Brennan died in 1873, leaving the *Coopers Arms* to his daughter Julie Goodall Brennan, by then married to James C Pratt, son of James Pratt. In 1896 the *Coopers Arms* lost its license. James C Pratt fought to have the license reinstated but the police at the time were trying to reduce the number of licensed premises and he failed. Then in 1897 James C Pratt built a new wing along Harris Street, the hotel was relicensed and renamed *Hotel Pleasanton*. The line of female publicans continued with Amelia Boulton and Mary Ann Elizabeth Lea (youngest daughter of Peter Brennan) taking the helm.

On 8th December 1899 the first tram made its scheduled run down Harris Street, the last stop (the terminus) being outside the hotel. That year the *Hotel Pleasanton* was sold by James C Pratt to Tooth & Co, and it was renamed the *Terminus Hotel*. *Hotel Pleasanton* was not a popular name with Pyrmont locals who “*sighed with relief*” at the name change. In 1917 major remodelling of the hotel was undertaken by Tooth & Co. This was quite an achievement considering wartime shortage of materials. The architects were Copeman and Lemont and they designed the *Terminus* in Art Nouveau style. In 1977 the McElwaine family took over running the pub. Their sons join the Comanchero Motorcycle Club, and their mates often drank at the pub with Harley Davidsons lined down John Street. The pub was unofficially given over to bikies one day a week. Greg McElwaine hired topless barmaids, one of the first pubs in Sydney to do this. In 1984 Greg McElwaine went into voluntary bankruptcy and Tooth & Co sold the *Terminus* to Isaac and Susan Wakil (Citilease Property Group) and the hotel was locked up. It was subsequently occupied by squatters. In 2015 The Wakils sold the hotel and adjoining property to developers Auswin TWT. In 2016 The *Terminus* was sold to David Mathlin and others, trading as *Terminus Hotel Pty Ltd*. In 2017 the hotel was restored, had a second ‘remodelling’ to provide extended dining facilities and then reopened after 33 years!



Cellar door before and after restoration



Bar before restoration



Tiles in the bar after restoration



Terminus Hotel before restoration



For sale in 2000



Terminus Hotel fully restored

Erik Halbert remembers the *Terminus Hotel* in 1984. He said the place was a bit rough and he remembers going there soon after he moved to Pyrmont for work. It was the closest pub to the laboratories so you could maximise the time spent drinking there. It was also reputedly a place where things frequently "fell off trucks". If you were looking for a cheap television or radio you apparently just had to drop the word around possibly on a Friday evening and call back in a week or so. Erik said he read that the *Terminus* had closed in 1984, which is when he went to Pyrmont, so the overlap may have been quite short.

The first time I saw the Terminus Hotel it was closed and covered in ivy, especially on the John Street side. In 2017 the new owners commissioned Shirley Fitzgerald, City of Sydney Historian to write the story of the *Terminus: The Pub That Sydney Forgot* and to record the memories of the publicans and customers. The book was published in 2018 by Shirley and launched by former Lord Mayor of Sydney, Lucy Turnbull AO on 20th March 2018.

More regarding Peter Brennan

The 1828 Census lists Peter Brennan, born c.1806, as a 22-year-old cooper working for Joseph Clayton in George Street, Sydney. Joseph is also listed with his wife Elizabeth and children. In 1830 Joseph owned the *Coopers Arms* in George Street and in 1833 he had another hotel of the same name in Sussex Street. In 1836 Joseph died and the licensee of the two hotels that year was Elizabeth Clayton, nee Allman. Peter Brennan married Elizabeth in 1837 and became the licensee of the two city hotels and later the *Coopers Arms* at Pyrmont until his death in 1873.



*This old house was the Pymont Hotel, Pymont's first hotel (later known as the Land's End in the 1850s). Part of the 1863 Coopers Arms (and then Terminus) can be seen adjoining it, to the right. The old house was demolished in the early twentieth century when the Terminus was extended.
Image: City of Sydney Archives CRS 51/297 image.*

Peter Brennan's date of birth is a bit of a mystery. He is listed as age 22 in the 1828 Census, and as born in 1806 in *Births in Australia 1788-1828* by James Hugh Donohoe, but his memorial plaque at St Stephen's Anglican Church Newtown states he died in 1873 at the age of 70. There is no birth registered, even though his siblings were registered, but on the death of Michael Brennan, Appin in 1855, the newspaper advertisement states he is the father of Peter Brennan of Pymont. Michael Brennan was a political prisoner, a United Irishman, transported from County Wexford, Ireland for his part in the Irish Rebellion of 1798, who arrived on the ship the *Anne* in 1801 along with his brother Moses Brennan.

Jan Koperberg

References:

1. *Emails between Erik Halbert, Patsy Moppett and Jan Koperberg*
2. *Terminus The Pub That Sydney Forgot* by Shirley Fitzgerald
3. *City of Sydney Archives CRS 51/297 and Pymont History Group*
4. *Census of New South Wales, November 1828 / edited by Malcolm R. Sainty & Keith A. Johnson*
5. *Trove: The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Family Notices, Deaths, Saturday 13 January 1855, page 5 (death of Michael Brennan)*
6. *Trove: The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954) Family Notices, Funerals Monday 27 October 1873, page 8 (death of Peter Brennan)*
7. *Pymont History Group: <https://pymonthistory.net.au/terminus-hotel>*
8. *Terminus Hotel website: <https://www.terminuspymont.com/>*

The Aurora and the Antarctic Bottle

On May 7th 1927 a strange story appeared in the Newcastle Sun. It said that a Mr George Bressington had been walking along a beach at Tuggerah, on the NSW Central Coast, when he unearthed a half buried wine bottle. On one side there was an etching of a penguin and a picture of the Antarctic ship *Aurora*. On the other side a list of names appeared under the notation: *MIDWINTER'S DAY, 1912 SHACKLETON GLACIER ANTARCTICA*. Those names were: Frank Wild, A.L. Kennedy, S. Evan Jones, C. Arch Hedley, Chas. T. Harrison, George Dovers, A.L. Watson and Merton H. Moyes.

Here is a little background to the *Aurora* story. When Sir Douglas Mawson's ship *Aurora* left England in 1911 for the Antarctic they were presented with three bottles of Madeira by Mr J. Y. Buchanan. The bottles were very special. They had been aboard the survey ship *H.M.S.*

Challenger during a long journey in the 1870s which included the Southern Ocean. The *Challenger*'s crew had collected many bottles of wine from different regions on the voyage. Buchanan had been on board, and now proposed a romantic ceremony. The wine was to be drunk by Mawson's expedition at the traditional Antarctic festival – Midwinter. The empty bottles would then be sent back to him in London. Frank Wild had led a group of eight men to the Western Base (the Shackelton Ice Shelf) and the Madeira was duly drunk at their midwinter dinner.

The only Tasmanian member of the expedition was biologist Charles Harrison (1866-1914). Harrison also recorded the dinner, including a detailed menu:

Excellent dinner. Soup, cheese, canapes, roast sirloin of seal baked with dripping over it, beautifully tender and really very nice. Potatoes, peas, turnips, plum pudding with whiskey sauce. Raspberries and strawberries in jelly. Raisons, almonds, fig, cheese straws etc.

He then noted that the last two toasts of the evening were drunk in Buchanan's Madeira, adding *Afterwards Dr Jones had all our signatures scratched on the bottle with his diamond.* Harrison was a talented artist and he then decorated the bottle:

I did a penguin on one side and a ship on the other. The bottle is to be returned to Mr Buchanan.

However, the men were so impressed with Harrison's artwork that they were reluctant to relinquish it. As a compromise a second bottle was engraved with the men's names.



A bottle of Portuguese Madeira – possibly one of the bottles on this table – was signed by members of the Western Base party during the midwinter dinner (pictured) in 1912.

L-R rear: Hoadley, Dovers, Watson, Harrison, Wild, L-R front: Jones, Moyes, Kennedy

"To-day the temperature was 29 degrees below zero. At 6 o'clock we commenced to set the table. The surroundings were decorated with the Australian flag and the Union Jack, and with Wild's sledging flag, and, most unusual of all, the table was covered with a cloth, though it was only a sheet that I had brought from the Aurora. "Our repast was excellent—the roast sirloin of seal better than any beef. The toast of 'The Old Explorers' was honored in wine, Madiera, that had been down in these regions only a few hundred miles away in the Challenger. We took a couple of flashlight pictures."

Watson's diary extract



Charles Harrison

We have an excellent account of the occasion from the diary of A. L. Watson (see above). Presumably the decorated bottle was sent to Mr Buchanan in London as arranged. Now as it turns out, the article about finding the engraved bottle on the beach at Tuggerah was completely fabricated. Where it originated I have no idea!

One man who read the account was Sir Douglas Mawson. Intrigued, he contacted George Bressington, and an entirely different story emerged. Here is an extract from an article published in Sydney's Freeman's Journal on June 2nd 1927:

A BOTTLE MAKES HISTORY: Somebody who was classifying the contents of an Ultimo (Sydney) bottle yard eight years ago had his attention arrested by a dead marine [wine bottle] with several names engraved on it. Thinking it might have some value as a curio he handed the bottle to G.R. Bressington, of the New South Wales Bottle Co.; the latter put it away somewhere in his home, and only quite recently, with the aid of some expert advice, elucidated its history.



THE AURORA AT SYDNEY.

The Wooden auxiliary barque **Aurora**, which put into Sydney last Sunday evening in a leaky condition, and anchored off Point Piper, will probably discharge her cargo of coal next week and then dock for inspection.

The **Aurora** was formerly Sir Ernest Shackleton's famous Antarctic exploring vessel, and was recently sold, and left Newcastle with a cargo of coal. All went well for three days, and then heavy weather set in, and the vessel strained and commenced to leak, so it was decided to make for Sydney for repairs.

Above is the only image I can find of the bottle with its engraving. There was no ship or penguin on the other side, so clearly it was the second of the pair etched at the Midwinter dinner.

But how did it end up at Ultimo? Well, here is one theory - I suppose it could have been found during the repair work on the *Aurora*.

The second possibility is that the bottle was discovered during a major overhaul of the *Aurora* in May 1917 at the Jubilee dry dock at Balmain, a suburb close to Ultimo. We have confirmation of this due to a tragic accident regarding Owens.

Mawson arranged with George Bressington that the bottle would be sent to the Mitchell Library to validate its authenticity and a note at the library confirms this was done. The bottle was then returned to Bressington. In 1932 a member of the Mawson's expedition, John Close, contacted Bressington who was by then an alderman at Homebush Council. Close was able to view the bottle in the chambers and he decided that one of the signatories on the bottle, Morton Moyes, would be the best person to take possession of the historic item. He wrote to the Mitchell Library telling them of the decision. Perhaps he thought the Library could arrange the handover.



Aurora in dry dock at Cockatoo Island in 1914 between voyages
Source: HJ Shearman Collection

ANTARCTIC SEAMAN'S DEATH

SYDNEY, Thursday.—John Owens (27), a seaman, died in the Balmain Hospital, as the result of a fractured skull. Owens was a member of the crew of the Aurora, which recently returned from a relieving expedition to the Antarctic. The vessel is now in the Jubilee floating dry dock.

About half-past 8 o'clock on Wednesday night Owens was seen to slip while crossing the gangway from the ship to the dockside, and fell through a wire net to the bottom of the dock, a distance of 40 feet.

Death of John Owens
Source: DAILY MAIL (Brisb.) May 18 1917



Jubilee Dock, Balmain
Source: Pinterest



Moyes aboard Aurora

But did this happen? Well unfortunately no-one knows. It was never seen or heard of again. George Bressington's descendants say they don't have the bottle. It is definitely not at the Mitchell Library. Could it be held by a member of the Moyes family?

Note: Charles Harrison went on to join the ship Endeavor in 1914. Its mission was to resupply the weather station on Macquarie Island. Sadly, the ship went missing on the voyage back to Hobart. The Aurora participated in a widespread search, but there were no survivors, and no wreckage was ever found.

Pauline Conolly

Editor's note: Thank you, Pauline, for the opportunity to print this fascinating story!



For the chance to enjoy many more of Pauline's intriguing tales, visit:
www.paulineconolly.com/category/blog

Book Review: The Frenchman: Francis Barrallier - a new book, and a revised journal translation

By Andy Macqueen

In 1788, just ten years after the English invaded Port Jackson, the former outlaw John Wilson was sent on two expeditions to cross the mountains and find a rumoured settlement—or rather to show some troublesome convicts that no such settlement existed. While no settlement was found, Wilson did find his way across the Blue Mountains as they were then conceived, for he nearly reached the future site of Goulburn. That fact seems to have been hushed up. Governor Hunter was running a prison colony: the last thing he wanted was expansion.

There was only ever one serious official attempt to cross the mountains, and that was in 1802, over a decade before the famous expedition by Blaxland and friends. The explorer was Governor King's aide-de camp, Ensign Francis Barrallier. Barrallier was a refugee from revolutionary France and had come to the colony in the hope of pursuing a surveying career. He got off to a promising start, being appointed an ensign in the Rum Corps and conducting the first surveys at Jervis Bay, Western Port and the Hunter River. However, he became a victim of the feuding between his fellow officers and the governor. He was obliged to leave—though not before conducting a significant expedition into the Burratorang and onwards to near Kanangra Walls, in his attempt to cross the mountains. That was, and remains, Gundungurra country.



Christys Creek

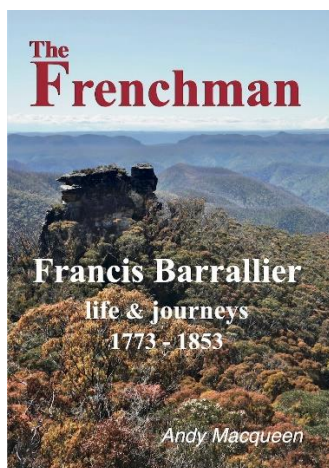


Johnston Falls



Higgins Falls

Barrallier nearly came back to the colony as surveyor general with Governor Bligh, but instead went on to make his mark with the army in the West Indies. As surveyor general of Barbados, he made an ordnance survey map of that island, and today that map is playing a unique contribution to the campaign for restorative justice for the former slave colony.



Auntie Sharon Halls



Linguist Milena with Andy

Blue Mountains historian Andy Macqueen recently launched his new book on Barrallier. It tells the story of Barrallier's life, with emphasis on his time in the colony, including especially the Blue Mountains expedition. Entitled *The Frenchman: Francis Barrallier, life and journeys 1773-1853*, it is a major overhaul of a book he wrote back in 1993, with much new content and new perspectives. His new book was launched by Blue Mountains MP Trish Doyle at Burragorang Lookout, overlooking the Burragorang, after a welcome to country by Gundungurra elder Auntie Sharyn Halls.

Macqueen also released, online, a revised transcription and translation of Barrallier's Blue Mountains journal, which was written in French and runs to some 21,000 words. The translation has been undertaken by linguist Milena Bellini-Sheppard: it corrects the omissions, mistakes, ambiguities and clumsy grammar that occur throughout the version published in 1897 in the Historical Records of New South Wales.

In his journal and letters Barrallier made wonderful descriptions of the terrain and, to some extent, the plants and wildlife. For instance, he made the first known report of brush-tailed rock wallabies and commented on the sparseness of the trees on the plains of the Burragorang. More importantly, he had much to say about the Dharawal and Gundungurra people who either participated in the expedition or were encountered along the way. As such, it is a unique and important first-contact story: many people today are descended from or related to the people whom Barrallier met.

In his book Macqueen relates the story of the expedition, with colour maps and photos. He also critically evaluates Barrallier's motives and behaviours, and the various incidents that occurred along the way. The significance of Barrallier's French background is highlighted.

Andy Macqueen

'The Frenchman' retails for \$40.00. It can be purchased at Blue Mountains bookshops, and post-free direct from the author at www.andymacqueenauthor.com

The revised transcription and translation of the journal may be accessed and downloaded at Trove: <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-3298197996/view>

Book release: *The Squatters' Grab*

By Wal Walker

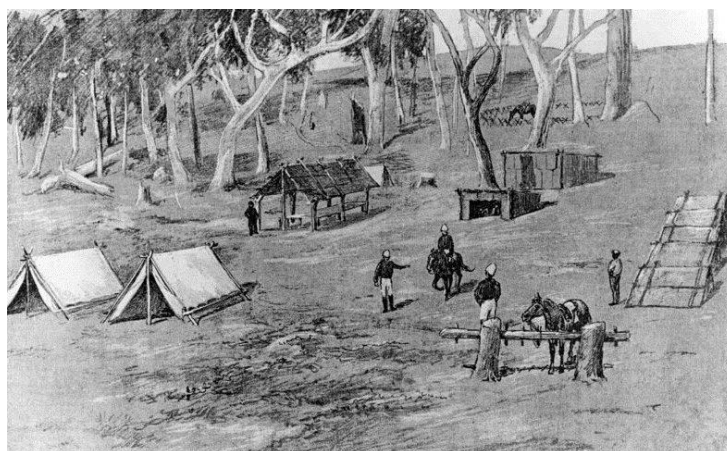
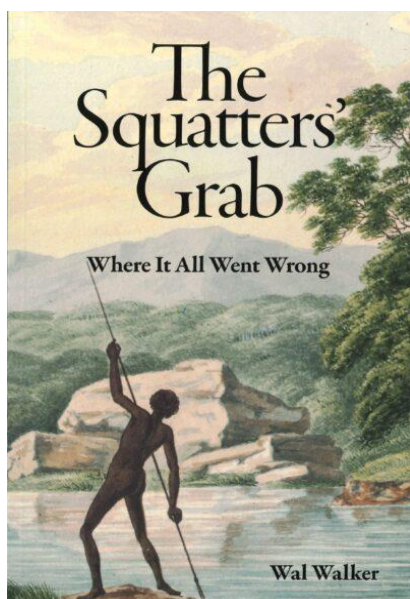
The Squatters' Grab traces the failure of various governments and colonial administrators to discharge their obligations to Indigenous Australians; failures that gave rise to the ascendancy of the squatters and dispossession of the Aboriginal people.

Colonial governors appointed by the British government were under an obligation to the Crown to protect the lives of the First Australians, yet the result was massacres and dispossession.

In his 1968 Boyer Lecture, Bill Stanner described the *great Australian silence* around the history of our relations with the traditional owners: a *cult of forgetfulness practised on a national scale*.

In his latest book Wal Walker advises that *The Squatters' Grab* bridges this gap, examining laws enacted in London by King, Queen, Parliament and Secretaries of State for the Colonies, relating to Indigenous Australians. It details how the law failed Aboriginal Australians so drastically and for so long; failing to acknowledge they had rights in their own country, denying them access to their land and to sources of food and water; denying them the right to appear in Court, to defend themselves or to bring a charge; treating them as enemy aliens, not as citizens entitled to the rule of law.

The Squatters' Grab was released in January 2024 and records the experience and voices of explorers, settlers and Aboriginals as the frontiers of settlement pushed rapidly out from Sydney, west then northward across the country. We meet those who recognised, respected and supported Indigenous people, as well as the perpetrators of violence. Wal Walker considers whether settlement could have progressed cooperatively, without the extensive loss of Indigenous lives.



Native police camp Queensland

The Squatters' Grab also examines the British experiment in Queensland, the establishment of a new colony with a small white population, with inadequate finance, little expertise and accelerating violence, given its own Parliament at separation. How its foundation document, an Order in Council signed by Queen Victoria, was disobeyed, overwhelmed from the first by squatters' interests, in collusion with the Governor and his Premier.

The book considers how the Queensland Native Police Force, given relatively unfettered powers to “disperse” Indigenous Australians, entrenched a culture of mutual fear, mistrust and dispossession. We are told the Queensland Native Police protected the squatters, how they were placed at their disposal to disperse and massacre Indigenous people, ensuring the squatters could take over Aboriginal country without being held responsible for violence and murder.

The Squatters' Grab deals honestly with our past. It is a book for the majority of Australians who have never found a clear and informative answer to what went wrong between the settlers and the First Australians. It is a resource for teachers and students across the country who are finally being given a curriculum that deals honestly with our past.

The Squatters' Grab attempts to unravel why and how it all went so wrong!

Published by Acana Press, the book is available through:

Website: www.squattersgrab.com.au

Email: info.squattersgrab@gmail.com

Or various sites online

Book publication: William Rosser - socialist and unionist

By Patricia Murnane

A recent biography on socialist and unionist William Rosser, who was highly active and very well-known in Australia from around 1908 to 1917, has been self-published by Patricia Murnane. What is quite interesting is that William was one of the workers on the Lithgow Ten Tunnels project as well as the Glenbrook 1911 to 1913 railway diversion, tunnel building and present railway station!

He became the President of the Railway Workers & General Laborers' Association of NSW and also was editor of their newspaper *The Nanny*. As far as the author can tell, there has never been an in-depth biography written of William, yet he is certainly a person who warrants one. He was quite an inspirational man with regard to social justice for workers and he seems to have had no fear in expressing his opinion. William was active in those early years of Australian federation with all the accompanying political, economic, industrial and trade union developments. William was a man whose great desire was to see the common

person treated with dignity, to receive a fair income, work in safety and be able to provide for their family. He was not afraid to enter into debate, challenge, and advocate for what he believed.



William Rosser



Broken Hill 1909 – Rosser front row far right

Patricia conducted extensive research to write this book and it is properly referenced. The book is A4 and is about 60 pages in length, with full colour images. The cost is \$25.00 including postage. A limited printing was undertaken, although sufficient interest may prompt a further printing.

Patricia Murnane

Contact: Patricia Murnane at mickety@tpg.com.au for further information.

**PLEASE NOTE THE CLOSING DATE FOR ARTICLES AND NOTIFICATIONS TO
THE EDITOR FOR THE JULY-AUGUST 2024 ISSUE OF HERITAGE IS
WEDNESDAY 26th JUNE 2024**

Community events & updates

Museums of History NSW Event: Collections on Tour 2024: Regional NSW

Museums of History NSW cares for, and provides access to, significant historic places, collections and archives in NSW and is responsible for promoting knowledge and appreciation of history. It is a statutory body, principally funded by the NSW Government. Join experts in the history of the home at an illustrated presentation titled '*Making Home: A Short History of Houses, Interiors and Gardens in NSW*' that draws on the rich collections of Museums of History NSW. The session will include a Q&A and an opportunity to view original material from the Caroline Simpson Library, the State Archives Collection and the museum collections.



Learn about the history of houses, interiors and gardens in NSW and explore material relevant to your locality. Drawing on their rich collections, their experts will deliver illustrated presentations.

The Blue Mountains event will be held on **Tuesday 7th May, from 11am–12.30pm** at the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre Seminar Room, 30 Parke Street, Katoomba. Local Blue Mountains content will be included. A second session has now been added from **2pm until 3.30pm**, due to popular demand.

The event is free, but bookings are essential <https://bit.ly/MakingHomeTalk>

In addition, and to celebrate National Family History Month in August, their experts will be travelling to Bathurst, Yass, Goulburn and the Central Coast to share stories about some of the 4,000 young Irish women who came to Australia between 1848 and 1850 as part of Earl Grey's Famine Orphan Scheme.

- Bathurst, 6th August
- Yass, 15th August
- Goulburn, 16th August
- Central Coast, 21st August

Find out more about the Collections on Tour series <https://mhns.w.au/collections-on-tour/>

Annual General Meetings

Blue Mountains Historical Society

Held 6th April 2024

President:	Phil Hammon
Senior Vice President:	Robyne Ridge
Vice President:	Vacant
Secretary:	Fiona Burn
Treasurer:	Vacant
Ordinary Committee:	Stephen Davis, Paul Innes John Hill

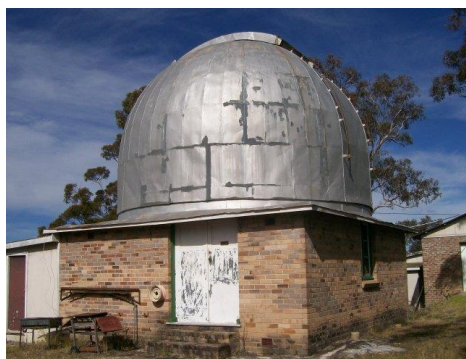
Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations

Held 23rd March 2024

President:	Patsy Moppett
Vice President:	Rod Stowe
Secretary:	Jan Koperberg
Treasurer:	Phil Hammon
Committee:	Roy Bennett, Fiona Burn, Dick Morony, Kate O'Neill, Gay Hendriksen

Linden Observatory Tour

Members of the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations (BMACHO) who attended the organisation's AGM on Saturday 23rd April were treated to a fascinating presentation by Ian Bridges, Trustee of the Linden Observatory.



Observatory



Ken Beames 1978

Ian's well illustrated talk described the many achievements of Mr Ken Beames, astronomer, engineer, instrument maker, and his great legacy, the Linden Observatory. Ken designed and built telescopes, many optical devices and a range of fine craft objects from his workshops in Five Dock and at the Linden site.

Members interested in astronomy or technical heritage will have an opportunity to visit the Linden Observatory in an event organised by the Blue Mountains Branch of the National Trust on Friday, May 10th. The visit will include a rare opportunity to inspect the workshops and other behind the scenes areas, the tour conducted by Ian Bridges who will share his experiences from having worked alongside Ken Beames for many years. Due to the nature of some of the locations, numbers will be quite limited, so interested parties should book as soon as possible. *Members of BMACHO and its affiliate organisations are offered this rare opportunity at the National Trust \$25 rate. When booking, use the code "BMACHO". To book, go to <https://www.123tix.com.au/events/42860/linden-observatory-behind-the-scenes>*

National Library of Australia: Community Heritage Grants 2024

The CHG program supports community organisations to look after Australian cultural heritage collections. CHG is open to non-profit, incorporated organisations, and has a strong focus on supporting local groups with limited funding who would benefit from access to professional cultural heritage expertise. Applications from Indigenous and multicultural organisations are encouraged.



Participants would progress through a three stage process to learn about their collection, how to care for it and how to plan for its future. Projects would aim to build the knowledge and skill of paid and volunteer staff to increase their capacity to share valuable heritage collections with all Australians.

The annual round offers cash grants of up to \$20,000.

- Stage one: explain the meaning and value of the collection (a significance assessment)
- Stage two: outline the condition of the collection and create a plan to manage it (a preservation needs assessment)
- Stage three: apply for funding to undertake conservation and collection management activities as recommended in the preservation needs assessment.

Funding is also available for collection management training projects.

All allocation of grants will be based on the recommendations of assessors and availability of funds. No applicant can be guaranteed funding, nor can any applicant be guaranteed the full amount requested. Funding varies from year to year, and it is not possible to fund all worthwhile projects.

Further details may be obtained in the CHG Guideline (see NLA website). For more information or to discuss your application, contact:

CHG Program Team, National Library of Australia chg@nla.gov.au

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



The venue is confirmed as the Carrington Hotel at Katoomba which provides limited onsite parking and close access to the railway station for travellers. Considerable accommodation opportunities are available at the Hotel and in the vicinity.

The speakers have been confirmed and topics include cultural tourism, the Katoomba Amusement Co, pianists in the guest houses, Blue Mountains theatres, arts, culture and entertainment, and the Victory Theatre at Blackheath. Most exciting will be a radio play to be presented by Blue Mountains Radio Players!

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

Conference: 'Dhuluny 1824-2024: 200 Years of Wiradyuri Resistance'

New South Wales Colonial Governor Sir Thomas Brisbane declared martial law in the Bathurst region on 14th August 1824, being the first use in New South Wales of martial law against Aboriginal people. The bicentenary and conference as backed by the Australian Historical Association, is an opportunity to focus on the legacies of this event and its consequences for Wiradyuri people, settlers and colonists in that area. It is also a time to progress reconciliation by marking shared histories and how they are reflected in the broader history of the Australian (Frontier) Wars.



Australian
Historical
Association



DHULUNY
"Truth and that which is direct"

Save the date: the conference is to be held at Bathurst Campus, Charles Sturt University, 14th to 17th August 2024. It will feature artists, dancers, storytellers, military lawyers and legal historians, interdisciplinary academics, research students, and others.

Expressions of interest are currently being sought for presenters, and this closes 30th April 2024 at dhulunyconference@csu.edu.au.

Blue Mountains Museums Advisor Program 2024

Museum Meets (MUSE)

Gay Hendriksen has advised of the program for the Museum Meets for 2024, and some changes are flagged.

The first Museum Meet for this year was held on March 22nd as the first catchup for the year. The event included Council updates, looking at the Museum Advisor program for the year and what will be offered, checking in on what is seen as needed for the year and info share. A seminar developed and presented by Kate O'Neill, looked at "*The Wellbeing and Sustainability of Blue Mountains History Societies/Museums*".

The seminar provided an excellent opportunity for Rebecca Turnbull, Museums Advisor (see below) to meet some of the museum community she will be working with.

Museum Advisor Program 2024

It is noted that there will be a variation to the Museum Advisor program, as this year Gay is only able to give half the hours to the program than she has in previous years. This has been discussed with MGNSW and Blue Mountains City Council and they agreed to a job share. Rebecca Turnbull of the Hawkesbury Museum has been included as a part of the Museum Advisor group for MGNSW, as Rebecca has great skills and is familiar with the region.

The possible joint days are seen as:

1. The beginning and end of year museum meets (so 2 days for each of them).
2. Workshops. If two workshops were held on one day they would still fulfill the aims of skilling up with the two a year workshops. If they were held on one day each, this would mean that Gay and Rebecca can both attend as these are also good health check days. So one day is required from each of them, leaving two days for other consultancy work.
3. The Heritage Forum is important for both of them for information, context for the consultancy, and network maintenance. This is six days of consultancy time. They are important for cohesion for this year and would help for a solid grounding if Council, Rebecca and Gay decided at the end of the year to continue this format they will cross that bridge when they come to it!

Health Checklist

They have also discussed a health checklist. Gay has made available a sample She did at the beginning of the consultancy which has been a guide for the workshop programs and site visits to date.

Storage Issues

Something they have not yet discussed that may surface is storage issues. It would be good to revisit what everyone saw as their requirements. It started but stalled. BMACHO gathered some information, some discussion was held previously and it is in the heritage strategy. It would be good to gather the stats from everyone this year and park it for a priority for next year.

Focus for 2024

This year collection priority (digitisation aspect) is the best focus, and it is anticipated there may be questions.

To discuss any aspects of the program for the coming year, Gay's details are provided:

Gay Hendriksen, Founding Partner, The Rowan Tree Heritage and Cultural Services

Email: rowantree.hc@gmail.com

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

Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail Update

BMACHO continues to promote the Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail and members' upcoming events. The last of the 2019 brochures can still be collected at participating venues and Visitor Information Centres, and can be downloaded from the BMACHO website. 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 Leura 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 BMACHO website (see below).

Should any business wish to be considered for inclusion in the next brochure, as a place of accommodation or an eating house along the trail route, please contact BMACHO at committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au

If you are a member and you would like further information, or if you would like to become a member, please email BMACHO at committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au

For general information about BMACHO and the Trail, see <http://bluemountainsheritage.com.au>



Lest we forget

BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

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

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

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

ABN: 53 994 839 952

The organisation: Blue Mountains Association of Cultural & Heritage Organisations Inc. (BMACHO) was established in April 2006 after local historical and heritage societies and individuals recognised the need for the creation of a cultural heritage strategy for the local government area (LGA) of Blue Mountains City Council. The constituency now embraces but is not limited to, the LGAs of Blue Mountains, Lithgow, Hawkesbury and Penrith. BMACHO membership includes historical and heritage groups, museums, commercial enterprises with an historical or heritage component in its core business, local government (local studies units, library collections) and a limited number of individual members by invitation such as but not necessarily academics. The objectives of the organisation are:

1. To raise public consciousness of the value of cultural heritage
2. To encourage and assist cultural heritage
3. To initiate and support cultural heritage activities not already covered by member organisations.

One of the aims of BMACHO is to bring the various bodies into closer contact to encourage them to work more closely together and to provide a combined voice on matters of importance within the heritage sector.

Affiliations: BMACHO is a member of the Royal Australian Historical Society.

Publications: BMACHO's official newsletter *Heritage* is edited by Patsy Moppett. The annual refereed *Blue Mountains History Journal* is edited by Dr Peter Rickwood and occasional papers are published from time to time.

Membership: The following organisations are members of BMACHO: Blue Mountain Education & Research Trust; Blue Mountains City Library; Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc; Blue Mountains Historical Society; Bygone Beautys Treasured Teapot Museum and Tearooms; City of Lithgow Mining Museum Inc; Colo Shire Family History Group; Everglades Historic House & Gardens; Friends of the Paragon Inc; 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: 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 *Heritage* originate from many sources and contributors. Every effort is taken to ensure accuracy of material. Content does not necessarily represent or reflect the views and opinions of BMACHO, its committee or its members. If errors are found feedback is most welcome.