

Heritage

*Newsletter of the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural
Heritage Organisations Inc*

July-August 2024 *ISSUE 93*
ISSN 2203-4366

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

Patrick Mullany (Mullaney), Storekeeper (including Eugenie and AJ Craig)

Patrick Mullany died at Katoomba on 31st July 1898. He was 48 at the time. He died of heart disease and lung congestion and had only been ill a short time. He was born at Rodeen, Roscommon in Ireland in about 1850 to Michael Mullany, a farmer, (wife's name unknown), and had emigrated to Australia in about 1868 aged 18.

For many of his early years in the colony he worked for John Meagher at Bathurst, where Meagher had opened his own store in 1867. John Meagher and Co. imported drapery, grocery, ironmongery, wines and spirits and furniture. By extending customer credit on the advice of their store managers John Meagher & Co. greatly assisted the development of the central and south-western districts of NSW. In Bathurst Patrick Mullany was highly regarded, where he worked for 14 years. He had managed various departments for Meagher and had charge of branch businesses for the firm at Trunkey, Hill End and Cootamundra.

In about 1878 Patrick Mullany arrived at Katoomba* to establish a business on his own account, having developed the knowhow from Meagher, and he became a popular and prosperous resident of his adopted town.

In 1877 the early settlement of the Crushers had become known as Katoomba, containing a few houses and the nearby JB North coal mine of 1879. By 1884 the small railway platform was in place, as was the stone gatekeeper's cottage at the level crossing. A few stores had been established along the main road (Bathurst Road) west of the current town centre and the post office was near Balmoral House.

Patrick had arrived in Katoomba at the right time. He commenced operating a store in a small tin shed which was later replaced by Mrs Buchanan's boarding house. He had supposedly been deputed by a Sydney firm to open a branch in Katoomba but was soon housed as his own business in a double fronted weatherboard shop with a front verandah near the corner of Cascade Street and the Bathurst Road. After 10 years he was obliged to relocate due to the expansion of the business and he located nearer to Park Street, into a two storey series of stores.

His business, Mullaney & Co (*sic*), comprised general provider and newsagent thriving on the sudden growth of the town, and he became a key figure in the change of Katoomba from a mining town to a tourist town.

Patrick was known as '*a rather dour Irishman of unbending personality, ... not ungenerous*'. He was well versed in Shakespeare, whom he would quote at length at times, and was

president of the Local Dramatic Society. He was neat and dapper and was a confirmed bachelor until he suddenly married in 1896.

In 1889 a public meeting called for the establishment of a municipality at Katoomba. When the Municipal District was formed the first council comprised FC Goyder, AA Smith, WH Edwards, Chas James, D Thompson and P Mullaney. Mullaney (sic) was elected an alderman to Katoomba Municipal Council in January 1890, but was forced by court action to vacate his seat in July 1890, after refusing to accept defeat in February 1890. He was elected again February 1891. In 1893 Patrick was elected Mayor of Katoomba and retired a year later. His future father-in-law was Eugene Marx, real estate agent, and through him for many years Patrick was to branch out into land purchase and subdivision, *'through close application to business and judicious land purchases'*.

One of his investments was the little valley down the sides of Vale and Leichhardt Streets. In 1889 the land between Gang Gang and Leichhardt Streets was owned by Mullaney and he subdivided it into 59 small lots, which included the layout of William Street, Vale Street, and Lovett Street. When the Katoomba coal mine closed the miners' cottages were bought by Mullaney between 1890 and 1895, and he rebuilt them at the lower end of Leichhardt, Clissold and Vale Streets, where many still stand. He exercised such a monopoly that the area was known as *Mullaney's Town* or *Paddy's Town*. As part of this development, Mullaney is said to have achieved funding from the Council for the upgrading of roads in the area, assisted by the fact that he was a council alderman at the time.



Subdivision 1889



Land sale in 1900



Hudson's Gully 1903 – stables

Mullany also established stables on land in the vicinity of the extant *Wadi Shaiffa*, which served his business in the town. There was a small building on the location of *Wadi Shaiffa*, which appeared to be a shed rather than a residence (see photo of Hudson's Gully above), and a clearly laid out ordered garden in the swampy area of the lower gully. It is likely that this garden was among many that supported the growing guest house industry of the area and was probably run by the Chinese.

Patrick married late in his life to Eugenie Annie Beatrice Marx, aged 24, on 16th June 1896 at St Patrick's Catholic Church in Sydney. Eugenie (Eugenia) was the daughter of Eugene Theophil Marx and Beatrice Mary Marx of Woolwich, Lane Cove River. Eugene Marx and his son Alfred were noted estate agents, whose name on the mosaic thresholds of their former premises at the Progress Building on Bathurst Road at Katoomba can still be seen. Apart from their business dealings, Eugene Marx and Mullany were also associated with the Savoy Theatre in Katoomba.



Entry steps at Progress Building, Bathurst Road

Mullany & Co continued after Patrick's death in 1898, being managed by Alfred Marx, his brother-in-law. Eugene Marx had died 5th August 1929 and is buried at Katoomba General Cemetery.

By 1911 Mullaney and Co was bankrupt and the main street buildings burnt down. The company was purchased by Ernest A.K. Hudson.

In 1914 the gully area below Lurline Street was also purchased by Hudson and in 1916 his wife Mary built *Wadi Shaiffa* while he was in Egypt WWI. However, in 1918 Hudson died of pneumonia. His wife continued to live at the house and used the house for guest accommodation, after Council resumed the land around Wadi Shaiffa in 1935 (also known as Hudson's Gully) for a public park, known then as Jubilee Park.



Prominent local identities of Katoomba 1891



Extract - Patrick Mullany



Mullany grave: Rookwood Catholic Cemetery



Marx family grave, Katoomba General Cemetery

Patrice Valentine was born to Patrick and Eugenia Mulaney in 1897. She was 14 months old when her father died on 31st July 1898, and was buried at Rookwood Catholic Cemetery. Patrick's widow Eugenie did remarry in 1902 to Alfred James (AJ) Craig, an alderman and Mayor, Katoomba real estate agent and manager of the Katoomba Amusement Company, and they had two children, Alfred and Estelle.

A J Craig was the son of Elizabeth (McLean) and John Craig of Penrith. Elizabeth's sister was Mrs Shiels of Regentville and Woodford Academy fame. Consequently, young Alfred served as postmaster at Woodford Post office (Woodford House) in 1893. By 1905 he was a real estate agent and alderman at Katoomba.



Woodford Academy



Alderman A J Craig

Eugenie remained the executrix of Patrick's estate, with her daughter being beneficiary, to be realised when she reached the age of 21. Financial dilemmas were to follow for Eugenie Craig.

In 1908 she sought to sell some of the real estate, including '*small wooden tenements*'. The court granted power to sell to the benefit of Patrice Valentine Mullany. The valuation of the properties had been determined by Richardson & Wrench and also by Alfred James Craig!

In the same year she sought payment by the court of a portion of the estate for the maintenance and education abroad of Patrice, who was only 11 at the time. Eugenie pleaded that at this age Patrice would benefit from an education abroad, and was contemplating sending her to Germany, and she would reside with an aunt in Switzerland. Money would be needed for her passage and residence, school fees and expenses for clothing and pocket money. Eugenie also declared that to save the cost of a companion for Patrice, she herself would accompany her daughter which would put her to considerable expense. She felt that something should be granted towards her own expenses. Eugenie's other two children would be left at Leura. However, as the judge, Justice Street, felt that as

no evidence had been provided as to which school would be attended and how long they would remain in Germany, that such an education would not necessarily benefit Patrice at age 11, and that if at a later date she wanted to study languages she could approach the court at that time. The judge noted that passages had been booked by Mrs Craig even before she approached the court, with a view to forcing the court's hand. He refused to allow the cost of the passages to come out of the estate.

Alfred James Craig enlisted in the 45th Infantry Battalion on 25th January 1916, of Katoomba, aged 44 and reached the rank of sergeant. Eugenie was listed as his next of kin, although she was living in Sydney. In December 1916 he cabled Christmas greetings back to all his friends in the mountains.

In 1916, while Alfred was still in France, Eugenie again sought a payment from the estate for the maintenance and education of Patrice, when Patrice was still 19. The Lithgow Mercury documented Patrice as '*A Katoomba Heiress*', the estate being worth in the order of £20,000.

However, from here we see relatively little of Alfred. His military records show that he was wounded in action in June 1917, receiving injuries to his left leg, but was returned to his unit. He then was withdrawn to the hospital, sent to England, discharged with '*primature senility*' [sic], and he returned to Australia in August 1918. He was not a well man when he returned, and it might be assumed that this was shell shock.

It would appear as though he and Eugenie were separated after the war. In 1928 he was seeking to replace his lost RSL badge. By 1929 his contacts were through the Mutual Life and Citizens' Assurance Company. Electoral Rolls show that in 1931 he was living at Coogee, and then at Randwick, working as an assurance/insurance inspector. In 1933 he was seeking to replace his lost discharge papers. From 1933 to 1937 he was addressed to Castlereagh Street, Sydney.

Alfred Craig died in 1941. His funeral notice in the Ryerson Index read '*CRAIG Alfred James Funeral Notice 06 MAY 1941 Sydney Morning Herald 06 MAY 1941*'. The funeral for Alfred James Craig (late AIF) was held at the Private Mortuary Chapel in Elizabeth Street, Sydney, for burial at the Northern Suburbs Church of England Cemetery.

Eugenie was later living at Manly from 1930 to 1936 according to Electoral Rolls.

Interestingly, Dun's Gazette recorded on 18th June 1934, that Eugenie Craig of *The Burlington*, Bathurst Road, Katoomba, had a sequestration order issued for bankruptcy against her. In 1935 an application was made to discharge the mortgage by Eugenie Craig, who by then was living at *Hillcrest*, Bathurst Road, Katoomba, and was listed as a guest house proprietress.

Eugenie died 17th May in 1939, at Mosman, but even in 1951, the estate of Eugenie Annie Beatrice Craig of Katoomba and Sydney, was issued with an overdue rates order on Lot 1 DP 7773 Woodlands Road and North Street, Katoomba. The land was sold for overdue rates in 1956.

Patrick Mullany's daughter Patrice married a Mr Eric Linden of Melbourne in 1918 and they settled at Medlow Bath.

Patrick Mullany was held in high esteem in Katoomba but also by his wife's family, who two years after his death placed memorials in the Sydney Morning Herald, from his parents in law and also from his wife's siblings Lillian, Hedwig, Winnie, and Alfred Marx.

In 1910 an article in the Blue Mountain Echo lamented the final demise of the firm under Mullany. When he died the newspaper recorded Patrick as follows:

Old Paddy Mullany was a decent old plodder, and paved the way to prosperity for those who followed. We are pleased to see that the old name will not to be lost and trust that under Mr Hudson's regime it [the company] will advance as rapidly as under the old heads.

**Editor's note: During my research I could not help wondering how/why Mullany came to Katoomba from Bathurst. Given he managed a company branch for John Meagher at Hill End, and given that JB North had property interests at Hill End, did they know each other, or did Mullany know the son*

George John North? This is a possibility, especially when we know that North held a major land sale back at Katoomba in 1883, and Mullany later purchased the miners' cottages when North's mine closed down, from 1990. Perhaps North advised Mullany that Katoomba was about to boom and that he should get himself down there!! Pure speculation!!!!

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

Patsy Moppett

Index

Patrick Mullany (Mullaney), Storekeeper	1
Editorial	6
Blue Mountains Subdivision Plans	9
Hawkesbury Panorama Hillclimb	11
Lighting the way: the road lighthouse	12
Book Launch: Wollemi National Park: Walks from Bilpin, Book 1	15
RAHS 2024 Cultural Grants Program	15
History Council of NSW: Annual History Awards 2024	16
Glenbrook History Walks Program 2024	16
Blue Mountains Steam FunFest 2024	17
BMACHO Workshops: The Home Curator	18
Hats at Hawkesbury	19
St Matthew's Anglican Church, Windsor - Tours	19
Woodford Academy Open Days	20
Colo Family History Group: Belmont Tour	21
Springwood swagmen	22
Conference	22
BMACHO at the Zig Zag Railway	23
GBM Heritage Trail update	23



From the Editor

What to do with your collection?????

Are you a historian/author/heritage consultant with a collection of books, manuscripts, artifacts, digital data and you are looking to hand it on for the appreciation of future generations? Are you the keeper of the family archives, and have books, clothing, photographs, school records, family heirlooms etc. and don't know how/where to place them for safe keeping for your children, grandchildren?

Although we will always keep up our interest in the heritage field, there comes a time when you want to step down, or retire, and let the next generation take over. It is a nerve wracking time. All that which you hold most dear or valuable has taken years, sometimes a lifetime to accumulate, and you will be reluctant to let go. As we have heard before, one person's junk is another person's treasure. However, there can be a fine line between hoarding and collecting. True collectors, whether individuals or institutions, acquire, research, document, organise, educate, exhibit or share their collections. A hoarder can be very good at the acquisition part of collecting but may fall down on the other actions. But maybe you are somewhere in between!

Where do you go to seek help in this regard? Many first thoughts lean towards your local historical society, family history group or museum, library or even the op shop! Private family history archivists may look around the family to see who of the next generation is developing enough interest to take it on. If the family collection relates to settlement outside your local

area, you may be contacting organisations or family members elsewhere in the State, country or even overseas.

Before you do this, you should be aware that these organisations, even the op shop, will probably have collection policies to guide them in regard to what and how much they can take into their collections in the future.

Collection policies

A collection policy is a set of guidelines set out in a policy which governs collecting, loans, deaccessioning, collection care and access for collecting agencies. Quite often well-meaning donors want to give objects to a museum which do not fit the organisation's aims. Handling such offers requires tact and diplomacy and having a written policy provides clarity for both the organisation and the donor without offence. Collection policies should always be publicly accessible.

A collection policy usually addresses:

- The purpose or mission of the organisation
- What the organisation collects
- How, from whom, and under what circumstances the organisation collects
- How it documents its acquisitions
- How it cares for the collection
- How it deals with removing objects from the collection
- What kind of loans it will enter into and what conditions will apply
- How the collection and records are made accessible to researchers and members of the general public
- How often the policy is reviewed

Most organisations greatly appreciate the many kind offers they receive each year from people looking to donate items to cultural collections. Unfortunately, the space and curatorial capacity they have for new collection items may be very limited.

Please note that the decision whether or not to acquire an item does not hinge solely on its artistic or cultural significance, but on a whole range of issues that may be specific to the organisation, which is why it is important to access their collection policy and be familiar with their aims and objectives. However, where appropriate, they may still be able to assist you in identifying alternative collecting institutions that may be a better match for your proposed donation.

Collection solutions

BMACHO recently undertook to contact our member groups to see how many of them have such policies, and what the general nature of those policies are*:

- **Everglades, Norman Lindsay Gallery, & Woodford Academy** – these groups are guided by the National Trust Collection & Development Policy 2018: the policy provides guidance on collection development and management functions and activities, principally acquisition and deaccessioning. The collection of the National Trust has been predominantly acquired through donations, bequests, financial gifts, and fundraising, usually conditional. The National Trust will accept objects on a permanent basis only if they are relevant and consistent with its organisational aims and objectives. Their policy lists each of its properties and documents specific collection criteria for each premises, including where they may collect objects for comparative research purposes to enhance knowledge and interpretation of the permanent collection.
- **Hawkesbury Community Archives 2015:** Records will remain permanently in the custody of Hawkesbury City Library's Local Studies Collection and accessible to the community and future researchers. The types of records that can be donated to the Community Archives may include minutes, newsletters and journals, reports, correspondence, photographs, videos or movies, diaries, personal papers, newspaper clippings and scrapbooks, maps and plans. In addition, individuals can

make donations of material to the Local Studies Collection via a donation or a bequest, as part of an estate, subject to assessment.

- **Lithgow & District Family History Society 2022:** The aims are to collect, index and conserve for posterity, records and items useful in the study of family history including their stories, from the Lithgow City Geographical Area, and includes any State, national and international areas involved directly with this research. They collect BDM records, church & cemetery records, family trees, digital records, books and records relating to social history, industrial, building and commercial records and photographs, oral histories and maps. They may accept objects that reflect significant periods within the above area and within the ability of the Society to store and preserve same.
- **Eskbank House Museum Collecting Guidelines 2024:** This policy is still in draft form but has regard for the relevance of items to the museum's purpose, aims and collection areas, and states that acquisition of the item should not unduly compete with the collecting areas of other museums. Otherwise, the policy has regard for the general criteria as set down later in this article.
- **Local Studies Collection Policy, Blue Mountains City Council:** Their aim is to preserve and make available a wide range of research material covering all aspects of the Blue Mountains region and make it accessible in appropriate formats both within and outside the library. The collection includes new and second hand material, relating to the Greater Blue Mountains, council rate and valuation records, minute books, books, reports, guidebooks, directories and souvenir booklets, vertical files, BM newspapers, a limited number of newsletters and journals of local groups, postcards are accepted, and copyright free photographs in slide, negative print and digital.
Blue Mountains City Council has a separate collections policy for the City Library.
- **Mt Victoria & District Historical Society – statement only – 2024:** The Museum collection must relate to the district of Mount Victoria and its directly surrounding area.
- **State Mine Lithgow Collection Management 2014:** Their policy seeks to guide decision making regarding acquisitions, documentation and disposal of collection items. The Museum collects objects and documents of direct relevance to the mining and industrial history of the Western Coalfield. The Museum collects machinery, transport equipment and vehicles, tools, personal protective equipment, lamps, geological specimens, documents, books, maps, plans, banners relevant to the history of mining and industry in the Western Coalfield. Larger collection objects may be accepted from other New South Wales coalmining districts where there is no capacity to conserve these items within their own areas.
- **Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum Donations Policy 2017:** This group has reached the point where they can no longer accept items into their collection. Their website states:
Offers of unsolicited donations of printed matter and other "memorabilia" may place Museum members in a difficult position. Following an upturn in such offers, the Museum's resources have become strained by the influx. In February 2017 the Museum adopted the policy: "No further donations of books, magazines, timetables, railway publications, plans, drawings photographs and small exhibits of any kind shall be accepted by any member or volunteer on behalf of the Museum UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE."

**It should be noted that the abovementioned Policies are those known to be current. Contact directly with the agency will establish whether any more recent reviews have been undertaken.*

Further research established collection policies at State and Federal level, which are worth reviewing:

- Museums Australia Collection Policy 2014

- Australian Museum Cultural Collections 2024
- MAAS Acquisitions and Accessions Policy 2020
- Sydney Living Museums - Collection Management 2014

The difference between museums and other agencies is noted, in that museums are the main collectors of objects. All agencies appear to accept, within their stated criteria and the storage space available, research material and photographs. Most do emphasize that acceptance may be on a case-by-case basis.

All agencies appear to operate under similar acquisition criteria. Amongst the criteria surrounding a decision to accept a donation, the following considerations would be taken into account in the acceptance of acquisitions and deposits:

- Provenance and authenticity
- Consultation
- Condition and care
- Conditions or restrictions
- Conflict of interest.
- Ownership of the item

The organisation may ask for certain information about the item/s or collection, such as:

- Photographs of the item(s)
- How did you come to own the item(s)?
- Does it/do they have a relationship to one of the properties or collections?
- What condition is/are the item/s in?
- What is the history of the items?
- Who were the previous owners (if known) and do you have any documentation to confirm this?

There may be other community organisations who would be interested in your collection, especially if it is theme based eg. stamps, coins, railway memorabilia, armed forces artifacts and so on.

The above may seem quite daunting and it can be intimidating to approach an agency to discuss the future of your precious collection. However, you will never know unless you ask!!!

Note: Following consultation with the relevant agencies, BMACHO will be seeking to place these current Policies on our website as references for collectors.

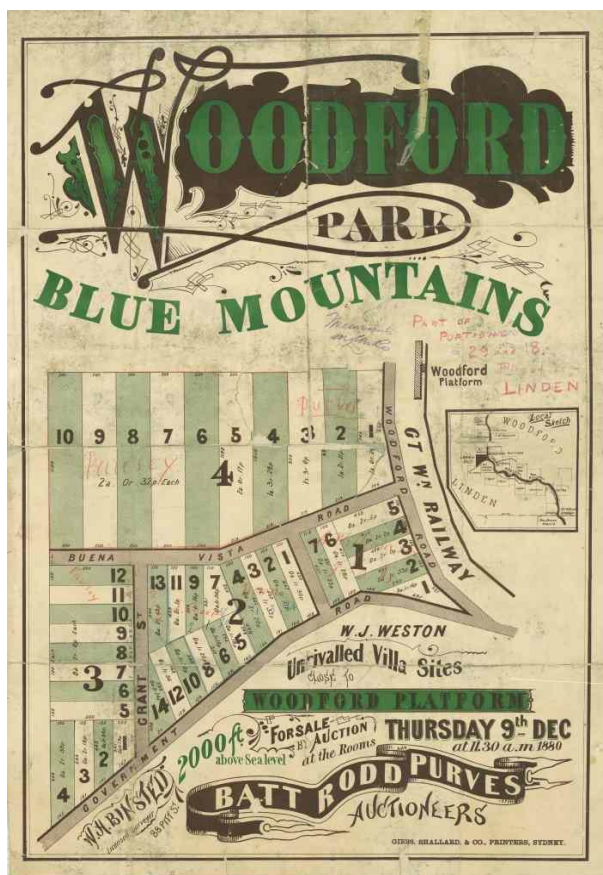
Blue Mountains Subdivision Plans

John Thomas Bigge, an English judge and royal commissioner, was sent to NSW in 1819 as a commissioner of inquiry into '*all the laws regulations and usages of the settlements*' of the Colony of New South Wales. A part of his report recorded the unsatisfactory confusion of the existing rules governing choice of land and the granting and selling of land. As early as 1823 Bigge recommended a systematic survey of the Colony.

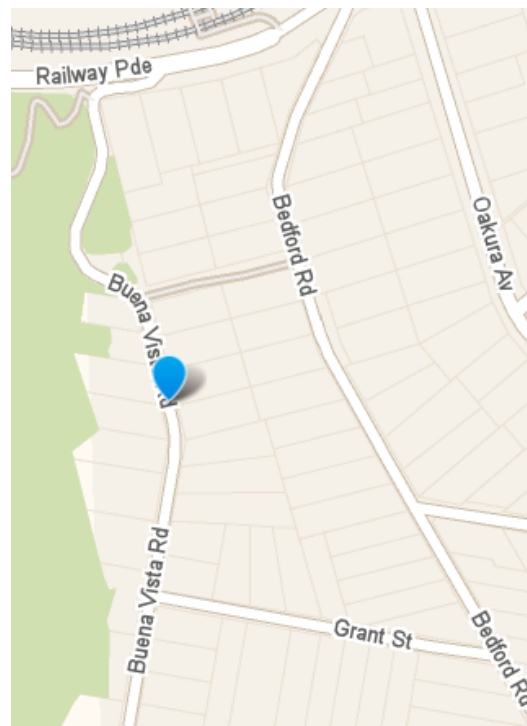
In 1825 an account was taken in England of the unsatisfactory situation with the issue of 'The King's Instructions' (George 1V). These instructions detailed the requirements for the division of the Colony into Counties and Parishes and formed the basis of Surveyor General Thomas Livingstone Mitchell's mapping.

Mitchell arrived in the colony in 1828. He set about establishing a Trigonometrical Survey, which involved erecting trig stations (a beacon with accurate positioning and height) as well as a base line, (where survey instruments could be checked for accuracy). From any two trig stations, any point of land could be measured. The County of Cook was one of the original nineteen Counties in Mitchell's survey that covers the area of the Blue Mountains. Overall, NSW has 141 Counties.

Individual survey plans from the 1830s to the 1870s were incorporated into the first Parish Maps. The County of Cook is divided into 45 Parishes. Along the Great Western Highway between Lapstone and Mount Victoria, they include: Strathdon, Magdala, Coomassie, Linden, Woodford, Jamison and Blackheath.



Subdivision Plan



The subdivision area today – Sections 1, 2 & 3

When a Parish Map became cluttered with too many notes and changes, a new edition was compiled. The Parish Map showed (no matter what the edition) the name of the first European owner, the original survey plan number, the size and dimensions of each parcel of land. On average, the Parish Map was divided into Portions of 50 to 640 acres, (20 to 259 ha).

The next division was further subdividing the Portions into Lots, (the rough equivalent of our house hold boundaries). In order for the subdivision to commence, the owner had to engage a surveyor to draw up the subdivision. This plan was submitted as a Deposited Plan (DP) to the Lands Department. The DP was registered in the Deposited Plan Register, showing the owner's name, information about size, shape, physical features, easements and or restrictions of the subdivision. The first location in the Blue Mountains for a registered Deposited Plan subdivision was Mount Victoria.

This very early colour subdivision plan (above) on the south side of the Great Western Highway at Woodford is part of Portion 18, Parish of Linden. Originally granted to William Joseph Weston by Crown Grant 10 June 1870. Licensed Surveyor William Henry Binsted drew up the subdivision plans and it was submitted as Deposited Plan 590.

The 112 x 70 cm broadsheet, Woodford Park, Blue Mountains, records the Licensed Surveyor W H Binsted; the land owner, W J Weston; the auctioneers Batt Rodd Purves; the printer Gibbs, Shallard & Co; the date, Thursday 9th December 1880; four Sections, totalling 43 Lots; and the proximity to Woodford (railway) Platform. The local sketch shows the adjoining land owners (not subdivided).

Sydney Morning Herald, 20th November 1880, p. 17 advertised:

Woodford Park. Splendid Villa Sites, over 2000 Feet above the sea level.

The advertisement went on to extolling the reason for buying:

“Meteorological observations taken at WOODFORD shew that this portion of the MOUNTAIN DISTRICT possesses the MOST EQUABLE climate of New South Wales.... the air-spectrum and telescope, established the fact that the atmosphere on the mountains was wonderfully clear and steady”

Those purchasing lots at the auction were recorded in the Sydney Morning Herald, 11th December 1880, p. 6. *Property Sales. Woodford Park Estate, adjoining Woodford platform, Blue Mountains.* Multiple lots were purchased by John Williamson, Thomas King, James Greer, Mr F Gibson, John Munro and Mr S Graham each lot auctioning off from £6. Right across the mountains, especially from the 1900s the majority of all 50 to 640 acres, (20 to 259 ha) Portions of land were subdivided into lots.

Subdivision Plans are just another means to elicit historical information from a different mapping source.

Brian Fox

Hawkesbury Panorama Hillclimb

Bathurst has Mount Panorama and its well documented history of motor racing. However, the Blue Mountains also has a history of motor racing, albeit on a much smaller scale. This includes of course the Catalina racing circuit of the 1950s at Katoomba. But the Blue Mountains also had its own ‘panorama’ racetrack!

The Hawkesbury Panorama Hillclimb operated up the hill bends on the Hawkesbury Road, from Shaw’s Creek to the lookout we know today, and involved both motorcycles and cars. Hawkesbury Hill’s first event took place on 26th January 1948, then known as Anniversary Day. It was a combined competition between the Vintage Sports Car Club of Australia (NSW) and the Australian Sporting Car Club. Some negotiation was required with the NSW Police and Colo Shire before the event could be held due to the necessity for the road to be closed during the event. Alternate access to the mountains was available and the races commenced on January 26th with a start at 10.30am for a two hour practice on the 1.4km hill, which had 9-11 corners/bends, one of which is a significant hairpin. Later events started practice at 9am, with the first events commencing at 10.30 or 11am. The climb was negotiated by racing cars, with motorcycles only using it once in November 1951.



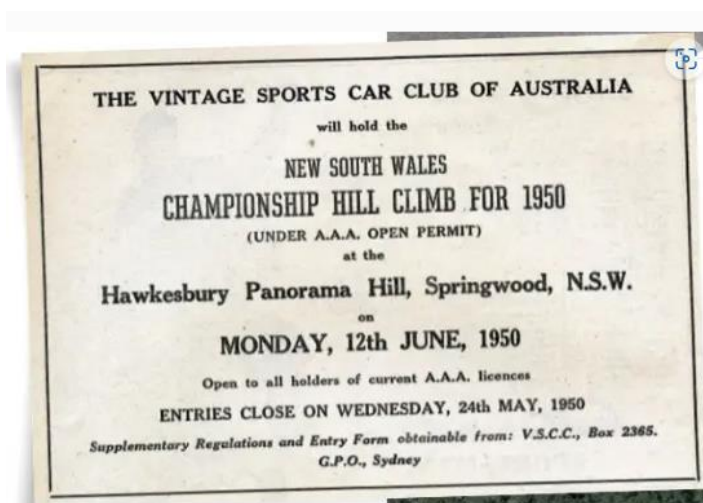
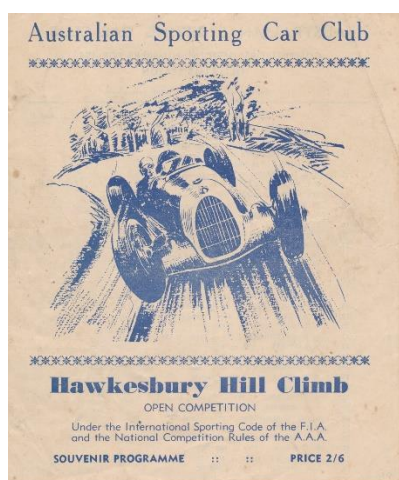
Remarkable photograph at the lookout in 1948 by Bill Daly

Rock slides and gravel were common hazards along the way due to the steepness of the adjoining hillsides, and retaining walls were built at critical locations. Heavy rain also resulted in the cancellation of events at times, even though the road was tarred and usually in good condition.



Negotiating the climb

They were usually ticketed events, and proceeds were donated to charitable organisations, such as the North Rocks Youth Club and the Spastic Centre. Up to 2,000 people attended each race day, which usually hosted about 30 contestants.



Event programs

From the early beginnings in 1948, events appeared to have been concentrated from then until 1955 and were usually run by the Vintage Sports Car Club of Australia (NSW) and the Australian Sporting Car Club, and included the annual hill climb championships.

**It is noted that there was a Springwood and Districts Auto Club affiliated with the Confederation of Australian Motor Sport (CAMS) in 1972.*

**Another note is that the name Sulman is associated with the event as a regular competitor. Tom Sulman was the grandson of Sir John Sulman (architect and Sulman Art Prize), the family owning Kihilla at Lawson. Tom raced his Sulman Singer here on a number of occasions.*

Patsy Moppett

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

Lighting the way: the road lighthouse

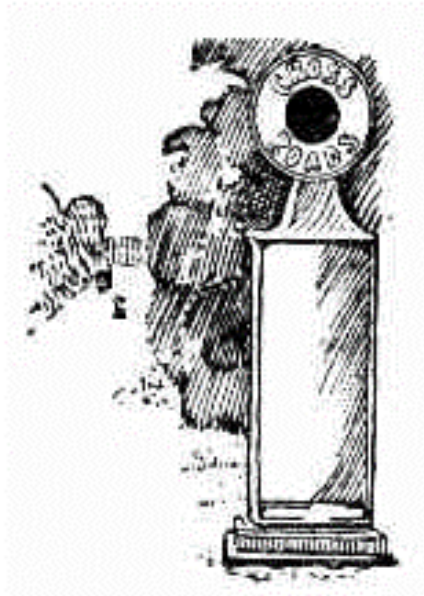
In the 1920s the motor car was starting to replace the horse and carriage. Traffic on all major thoroughfares leading from Sydney was becoming congested, with a mix of animal and machine. Daytime travel was often fraught with danger due to the condition of the roads, and travel time could amount to days and weeks, depending upon whether you handled the road, the weather and the crowds effectively.

Night travel was a different kettle of fish! The daytime hazards were still there, although the number of people on the way were perhaps lessened. But the weather became drastic if it closed in, bushrangers and other malcontents were about, and it was dark!!! Signposts were few and far between, usually private erected and often fallen over or bent. Losing one's way or falling into potholes or over embankments were high on the danger list.

From the early colony onward many travellers documented their experiences, and by the 1920s it would seem little had changed for those venturing west from Sydney. However, in the early part of that decade someone in other parts of the world (Sweden, UK & USA) came up with the idea of lighthouses!!!

..... at different points on our main roads where danger lurks for the unwary driver – at places where there is a hairpin bend or a sudden descent or a dangerous crossing – a beacon light arrests the attention of the driver, and reminds him to take the necessary precaution At the top of a substantial base the sign takes the shape of a large disc bearing in large letters the announcement such as 'Cross Roads' or 'Danger' and in the centre of the sign is a well protected light which flashes at frequent intervals – 15 flashes to the minute. The complete structure is about 9ft high. The light is supplied by compressed acetylene, and the charge turns out four months before needing renewal

The light stood on a pillar base displayed on the face information about distances from principal towns. On the sides and the back were advertisements.



In 1922 the press in WA recorded that such standards were being erected in Kent in the UK by the Gas Accumulator Company.

In Queensland, road lighthouses appeared about 1925, installed by the Vacuum Oil Company in the interests of road safety, but were already popular in the USA and other parts of the world.

They were first proposed in Tasmania in 1924, and by 1926 there were some 36 road lighthouses erected across Victoria. The press recorded that the installations had resulted in reducing the number of accidents greatly.

The first road lighthouse in NSW was dedicated on 2nd May 1925 when Councillor Wilson, President of the Blue Mountains Shire, switched on the light, installed at the foot of Lapstone Hill. By this time some 100 lights had already been installed across Victoria and Queensland. They were, Wilson said, to be to road users as lighthouses were to ships and would be on both day and night. Some 32 lighthouses were approved for installations within the Shire. The NRMA president JC Watson remarked that this marked a new era in road control.

About 200 attended the opening at Lapstone, with refreshments being offered at the Orient Hotel at Emu Plains by Mr Kirkpatrick, managing director of Australian Highway Lighthouses P/L, the company who supplied the lighthouses.

Later that year in July the first electrically powered Australian made lighthouse was erected at Kogarah in Sydney. By this time seven of the proposed lights for the Great Western Road had been installed.

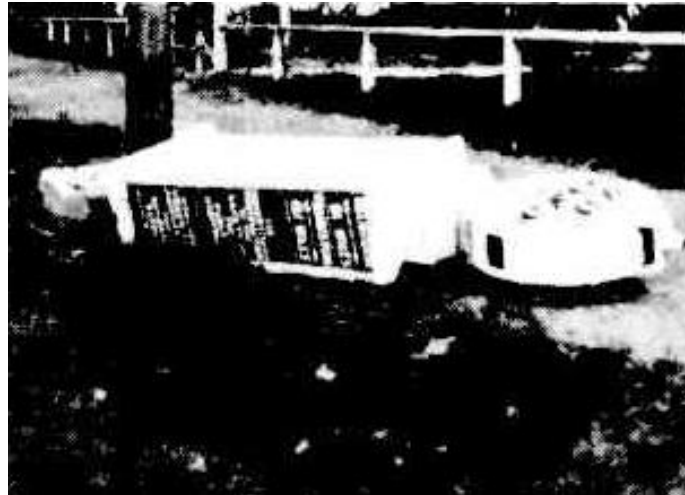
When the first light at Manly was installed in November 1925, the local mayor had not even heard of them until a few days before the event. This one was provided by the Bean Company.

The word first appeared in legislation in NSW when the first Main Roads Act was drafted.

The road lighthouses were not without fault. In December 1925 one installed at Pontville in Tasmania was found to be knocked over and completely destroyed.

In addition, not everyone in the community appreciated the aspect of road safety provided by the installations. In Victoria, one resident saw fit to write to the newspaper, considerably incensed by what he viewed as a monstrosity and hideous trade advertising, almost in front of his house, *at a one of the most beautiful spots along the road.*

The lighthouse was intended to warn of a dangerous curve in the vicinity, but the writer saw it as an advertisement for the motor oil company, the colour scheme of which is *a nightmare and an outrage*. He claimed that the sign could be seen from some 100 yards away in daytime, but at night the light was less obvious.



Sandringham, Victoria 1928

He advised removal on the basis of devaluation of adjacent properties, the sign was not located near the alleged road bend (an innocuous slight curve, so he said), and that it was erected on a narrow part of the road next to a culvert and would ultimately cause accidents rather than prevent them.

Eventually only 22 lighthouses were erected along the Great Western Highway within the Blue Mountains Shire boundary, there being 10 between Linden and Woodford. The Council and the NRMA were quite satisfied with the effect of the lights on reducing accidents at dangerous sections of the road.

However, the lights continued to have their problems. Maintenance was an issue, dependent upon the company maintenance man doing the repairs, as opposed to Council. They were also a target for shooters and vandals, and one at Woodford was knocked over. Council charged a fee for the installation of each light and by 1929 the company owed four years' fees. In 1931 the Main Roads Board instructed the company (by then in liquidation) to remove all lighthouses.

Patsy Moppett

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

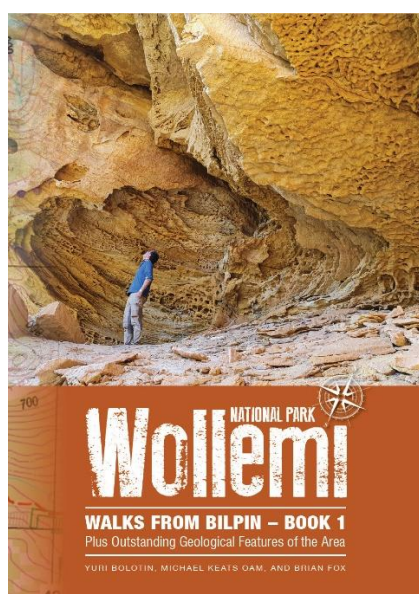
Book Launch: Wollemi National Park: Walks from Bilpin, Book 1

By The Bush Explorers

Bush Explorers is a work in progress guide to ultimate bushwalking in the Greater Blue Mountains National Park and the Gardens of Stone National Park. It is a chronicle of challenges, discoveries, adventures, sweat and research by the Bush Explorers Brian Fox, Michael Keats OAM and Yuri Bolotin. It is also your key to enjoy seldom visited places, and through words and pictures, enjoy what is literally on Sydney's back doorstep.

This new publication was launched at Bilpin on 26th May 2024. The area, easily accessible from Sydney and other parts of the Blue Mountains, is not yet frequented by many bushwalkers.

Over years of methodical exploration, the Bush Explorers have discovered here an incredible variety of breathtaking and previously unseen geological features, together with spectacular lookouts, rainforest gorges, creeks and rivers, waterfalls, forests, mountain passes and historical relics of both the ancient Aboriginal culture and the more recent European settlers.



Their 572-page book contains 28 unique, not previously published bushwalks, as well as a comprehensive geological essay explaining the origin of the amazing rock formations found here. It is illustrated with maps and hundreds of colour photographs.

The book is available from the authors through their website www.bushexplorers.com , and from leading book shops and visitor information centres across the mountains.

PLEASE NOTE THE CLOSING DATE FOR ARTICLES AND NOTIFICATIONS TO THE EDITOR FOR THE SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2024 ISSUE OF HERITAGE IS Monday 26th August 2024

Community events & updates

RAHS 2024 Cultural Grants Program

The Cultural Grants Program is a Create NSW funding program administered by the Royal Australian Historical Society on behalf of the NSW Government. This Cultural Grants program assists historical research and publication of local, community and regional history projects.



The Program supports local history and heritage projects, facilitating an understanding of the history of the people and places of NSW. The RAHS will distribute \$55,000+GST in grants this year.

Projects should be relevant to understanding the history of NSW and its people and places. Grants of up to \$5,000 support the work of historical research and publication undertaken by local historical societies and similar bodies across NSW.

The type of projects which may be eligible include:

- Research and writing
- Historical research publication
- Digital projects
- Collation and preparation
- Conservation projects
- Education programs
- Professional support

Please allow one week before submission date to ensure the application is reviewed by another member of your organization. The projects should generally be able to be completed by December 2025. We aim to notify the successful applications by early October 2024. The Cultural Grants are awarded at the RAHS Annual Conference, with details published in *History* magazine.

The 2024 Cultural Grants Program opened on 14th May at 9am and closes on 2nd July 2024 at midnight. If you would like to learn more about the 2024 Cultural Grants Program, you can visit their website, or email grants@rahs.org.au, to download the Guidelines.

History Council of NSW: Annual History Awards 2024



The HCNSW offer a number of prestigious annual awards and prizes across different fields of historical practice, totalling \$5,500 in prize money. The Awards support and acknowledge contributions towards heritage practice and theory and celebrate history in all its diverse forms.

Students, early career researchers, continuing historians, and those who produce digital histories are encouraged to apply. Winners will be announced and prize presentations made during History Week 2024, 7-15th September. Further details, such as the criteria for each award and prize, can be found here. Applications close on **9th July 2024**, at 5 pm.

For further information:

Post: History Council of NSW: Royal Exchange NSW 1225

Phone: 0418811522

Email: admin@historycouncilnsw.org.au

www.historycouncilnsw.org.au

Glenbrook History Walks Program 2024

Don't forget the Glenbrook history walks remaining this year. All walks are on Saturdays, led by Doug Knowles and John Dikeman.

E: EASY gradients. Firm underfoot.

M: MEDIUM. Short steep sections, some rough sections.

H: HARD. Steep, rough, 4 to 5 kms.

- **E** July 6 9.00 am “Sun Valley”: Volcanic soil, giant Bluegums. Short walk along Fitzgerald’s Creek. 2 hrs.
- **E** July 20 1.30 pm “Lapstone Construction Railway 1910-1913”: and East Portal of Lapstone Hill Tunnel (1892). 2 hrs.
- **H** Aug. 3 9.00 am “Bull’s Creek Dam”: Railway water supply. Stone dam, pump site, relics. Paradise Pool. Circuitous walk. 3½ hrs.
- **H** Aug. 17 9.00 am “Faulconbridge Point”: Spectacular views of Grose River Gorge and panoramic views from East to West. Easy walking on good fire trail surface. 4 hrs. Caution! 13 kms total distance.
- **E** Sept. 7 1.30 pm “Glenbrook Discovery Heritage Walk”: Historic sites, houses and the 1892 railway route to Lapstone Hill Tunnel, West Portal. 2 hrs.



Bull's Creek dam 2017

Adults: \$10 (Cash please.) Accompanied children under 16yrs: free.

Good walking shoes are essential. Please bring a hat and drinking water. (No dogs please.)

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

Book early: Limited numbers. BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL: Phone Doug on 0414 154 695 for bookings, and details on meeting place/time.

Blue Mountains Steam FunFest 2024

The Steam FunFest is on again, now in its second year. After a most successful weekend last year, the event promises again to be an exciting experience.

It will be held on **Friday 12th July, Saturday 13th July and Sunday 14th July 2024** at the Valley Heights Locomotive Depot and Heritage Museum site, to be staged by the Museum together with the Campbelltown Steam Museum and the Model T Ford Club.

This is the middle weekend of the July School Holidays, so bring the family along for a day full of steam fun!

A shuttle bus will be available from Valley Heights station and car park.

Tickets include:

- Museum admission.
- Rides on the 130 year old Sydney steam tram and the 125 year old steam train.
- Viewing the display of various steam powered machinery provided by the Campbelltown Steam & Machinery Museum.
- Viewing the display of prized cars by the Model T Ford Club. Some of these cars are just as old as the steam exhibits that will feature in this event.



Visit the website to book, as pre-booked tickets are essential to guarantee the rides. Online bookings close at 19:00 (7pm) the night before your proposed visit.
www.valleyheightsrailmuseum.info/news/steam-funfest

Note: If you have not pre-booked you are still welcome to attend and pay on arrival, but they cannot guarantee train and tram rides if you have not pre-booked. Morning rides tend to be fully booked so they recommend that you come after lunch if you want to ride on the steam train and steam tram without pre-booking.

You can contact the organisers by email for further information
publicity@valleyheightsrailmuseum.info

BMACHO Workshops: The Home Curator

BMACHO is intending to hold two workshops this year under this heading with the intent of showing participants how to document electronically, the storage of collections that are held by them in their backyards or back sheds etc., that is, items that they feel are important but unorganised, with a view to setting up a collection of their own. This would be artefacts, not documents for archiving. The presenter for these workshops is Gay Hendriksen.



- The first workshop on Wednesday 31st July is a talk aimed at small museums, family history collections and private collections. Attendees can bring in objects to determine their significance. The session will run for approx. 3 hours – with a break after 1½ hours for morning tea (provided). After the break we would look at objects and where possible provide advice.
- For the second workshop on Thursday 7th November attendees would bring computers and would be shown how to catalogue items in their collections. This will require a space where tables and chairs can be set up for attendees to use their computers. Once again morning tea would be provided at a half way break.

The workshops will be open to the general public and will be \$25 per attendee which covers both workshops. The workshops will be advertised in the Blue Mountains Gazette as well as through BMACHO members and on Facebook.

The first workshop will be held at the CMS Conference Centre, 8 Violet Street, Katoomba. Parking is available outside the main glass door entry.

Bookings: Humanitix <https://events.humanitix.com/the-home-curator>

For further information you can contact BMACHO:

Email: committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au

Secretary: j.koperberg@bigpond.com

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

Hats at Hawkesbury

ARTIST DEMONSTRATION: Cabbage Tree Hats, their history & construction:

Sue Brian developed a passion for learning traditional skills in weaving and hat-making while living on Norfolk Island, using various fibres particular to the Polynesian style. Since then, she has extended her study to cabbage tree hat making, such hats being common during Australian colonial times. Sue is now in demand to teach this craft at many folk and heritage festivals around Australia.



*Artist Sue Brian weaves a Cabbage Tree Hat with musical accompaniment
Courtesy of the artist*

Join expert hatter, Sue to hear about the history of the cabbage tree hat, the distinctively Australian headwear of the 19th century. Sue will demonstrate the art of cabbage tree hat making while her husband Don, accompanies her in music and song. Light refreshments provided. All ages are welcome.

The workshop will be held on **Saturday 20th July**, from 11am-12.30pm.

Cost: \$10 - BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL (free for Under 18s)

St Matthew's Anglican Church, Windsor - Tours

Hawkesbury Historical Society are pleased to announce tours of St Matthew's Anglican Church, Windsor, which include viewing of the church, belltower and cemetery. Designed by convict architect Francis Greenway, the building was consecrated in 1822.

This church is a landmark in the Windsor district, a religious, social and architectural icon, which holds many stories within its history. The burial ground dates to 1810, the construction of the church commencing in 1817, and together with an 1823-25 rectory and stables, the church was the centre of many intriguing rivalries and tensions.



Join the Defenders of Thompson Square, in collaboration with St Matthew's Anglican Church and the Hawkesbury Historical Society, who are offering guided tours of the church, belltower and cemetery at 5 Moses Street, Windsor.

The first tour was held on Sunday 23rd June, and subsequent tours are scheduled for **Sunday 18th August 2024** and **Sunday 20th October 2024**. Each tour runs from 1pm to 3pm.

The cost is \$50 per person for the complete 2 hour tour, and ages are restricted to 18+.

There is a maximum of ten participants per tour and one tour only is offered on each advertised date. Note that the tour includes climbing steep narrow stairs with no handrails and walking on uneven ground outside.

60% of all funds raised will be donated to the St Matthews Anglican Church conservation fund.

For bookings and details: www.defendersofthompsonsquareinc.com/defenders-tours

Woodford Academy Open Days

Built originally as a roadside inn in the 1830s, the property has had a multi-layered history, operating over the years as a gentleman's residence, guest house, boarding house and from 1907 to 1936, a private classics college run by John McManamey.



It is now a museum at 90-92 Great Western Highway, Woodford, which offers not only a unique glimpse of colonial life in the Blue Mountains but also an insight into the current Blue Mountains community through an innovative program of site-specific art events, performances and talks.



BMACHO Committee members Jan Koperberg & Patsy Moppett at BMACHO display table with volunteer Yvonne Kattell on the recent International Museums Day at the Academy

Take a house tour and grab a bite to eat or drink in the volunteer run café at an upcoming open day. Open days are held each month on the third Saturday of each month from 10am to 4pm.

Cost of entry:

National Trust members – FREE

Adult - \$12

Concession* - \$10

Family - \$34

Child (under 5 years) – FREE

*Concession applies for full-time students, seniors, pensioners and children aged 5-15 years.

Bookings: Tickets can be purchased at the door or booked in advance through the National Trust website to guarantee your spot. Booking fees apply.

Events to watch out for include:

- **17th August: Books and Poetry Festival:** The Woodford Academy's collection has over 1000 vintage books, pamphlets and magazines of poetry, classics, fiction, gardening, cooking, music, agricultural gazettes and much more. Many of these will be on display throughout the building along with local bookstalls and talks on the proper care and conservation of precious books.
- **19th October: Hidden House Histories** talk: researching the rich history of houses in the Blue Mountains.



Books and Poetry Festival



Hidden House Histories

For further information you can phone 02 9258 0123, or

Email: woodfordacademy@gmail.com

Colo Family History Group: Belmont Tour

Belmont House is a magnificent sandstone premises at North Richmond built by John Howie (see BMACHO Heritage Newsletter November-December 2023 No.89 re John Howie) in 1892 for Philip Charley and his family and nothing was spared when building Belmont Park, the estate. The house and grounds command the best and most alluring views in the Hawkesbury, which now forms a part of St John of God Hospital. Archibald Bell was the early owner of the property, but the foundations of the original house he built and lived in from 1810 to 1849 are all that remain.

The *Friends of Belmont* group, formed in 2018, is dedicated to recording the history of this amazing building and help to raise funds for maintenance by conducting monthly tours of the house, headed by Brother Julian. Now retired, Brother Julian has spent a very large part of his life serving the community as a psychiatric nurse at this hospital. He abounds with stories of the history of Belmont, from its earliest days through to modern day times, which he relates while guests tour one of the most beautiful buildings in Australia. The tours are in high demand, and the Group has booked a tour for Sunday **21st July 2024**.



Belmont House

There are limited spaces, initially for Historical Society members, and they need to have their numbers finalised by 7th July. If there are any vacancies left then, the tours will be opened to the rest of the public.

Cost is \$25 per person.

For further information and bookings contact Joy Shepherd on 0417 029 685.

Springwood Swagmen

Scone Advocate (NSW : 1887 - 1954), Friday 20 August 1926, page 3

It is worth noting that 75 swagmen passed through Springwood during the past week (says the 'Blue Mountaineer'). A big percentage admit they have been tossed on the market by the Workers' Compensation Act, and, instead of cheering Lang and Co., their curses are loud and long. The unfortunates are tramping out. Evidently heedless of the fact that the Golden West and the Back-o-Beyond are as barren of opportunity as the home centres they left behind them, while living conditions are ten times worse for the down-and-out.

This extract is taken from the Scone Advocate, but it is interesting to note that the small article found its way into newspapers in the Blue Mountains, but as well as in Parkes, Narrabri, Jerilderie and Gundagai, amongst others!

Swagmen were particularly common in Australia during times of economic uncertainty, when many unemployed men travelled the rural areas of Australia on foot, their few meagre possessions rolled up and carried in their swag, seeking employment beyond the city.

Patsy Moppett

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 community parking nearby, with 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.

BMACHO at the Zig Zag Railway

The Zig Zag Railway is up and running again, finally reopening in 2023, after fires, Covid and funding issues!

The Railway offers visitors a range of different travel options providing a unique opportunity to step back in time and experience the thrill of traveling by rail as it was done in the past. They run trains Friday/Saturday/Sunday once per fortnight. See their tickets page for dates www.zigzagrailway.com.au

They also have great spots for a picnic, static carriages to dine in, a souvenir store and the Container Café. It is one of the best things to do when visiting the Blue Mountains and Lithgow.



BMACHO Committee at Zig Zag

Zig Zag Railway is a member organisation of BMACHO and recently hosted their June Committee Meeting. In spite of the inclement weather, the Committee enjoyed a fascinating look into the workings of the facility, ably guided by staff members Mandy Wiggins (Executive Assistant) and Adrian McMahon (Director). A train trip down to Bottom Points was followed by the Committee Meeting and a chance to share experiences. The Committee was then conveyed back up to Clarence Station to complete the day. Thank you is extended to the Railway staff for a great day!

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 the brochure can be downloaded from the BMACHO website. The brochure is currently being reviewed and will be reissued when funds are available.

Reminder: It should be noted that due to a number of reasons such as Covid, fires and floods, some of the venues displayed on the current brochure may no longer be available. Two in particular are the Leuralla NSW Toy and Railway Museum at Leura and Ambermere Restaurant at Little Hartley.

It should also be noted that Blue Mountain Education and Research Trust (BMERT) have changed their website and email address and although this cannot be updated as yet on the brochure, it has been updated on the 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>

The past is rarely a reliable prologue for the present, but it is all we have. A better understanding of our history will help us make better sense of what is happening around us [now] And the more we know of the past, the better we will understand who we are, and what we might become.

Alistair Moffat: Scotland's Forgotten Past 2024

BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

Registered office: 1/19 Stypanandra 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.