

Heritage

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Heritage Organisations Inc*

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Acknowledgement of Country

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

The Welcome Inn (Valley Inn, Woolpack Inn), Valley Heights

Valley Heights is located between Warrimoo and Springwood on the Great Western Highway and was originally known as Fitzgerald's Valley, probably after Richard Fitzgerald the superintendent of the agricultural farm at Emu Plains in 1819, when the upper valley provided alternate grazing lands for his stock. The creek running through the valley is known as Fitzgerald's Creek. The actual valley itself is now known as Sun Valley.

The Valley was a popular stopping off place for travellers moving through to the west, from as early as the first crossing by Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth, and then during Cox's construction of the road. The locality had good water and pasture for stock and protected areas for camping.



Early sketch of the Inn

The *Valley Inn*, also known at various times as the *Woolpack Inn* and *Welcome Inn*, was originally built by Alexander Fraser at Fitzgerald's Valley (Valley Heights) in 1831 nine miles from the Nepean, just before the removal of the military depot. It was the first public house at this point along the western road until Boland's *Springwood Inn* was built in 1847, and was opened by Governor Darling. It was reputed to be convict built, both on the authority of members of the Royal Historical Society, and from the knowledge of the demolisher JE Wheatley in 1937. However, the fact is disputed by descendants of the family of Joseph James, an early proprietor.



The Welcome Inn 1930s

The original *Valley Inn* was built by Fraser on a site where the Valley Heights railway station now stands. There are supposed to be foundations of the original *Inn* still remaining at the station, at the southern end.

A chronology of known innkeepers can be traced as follows:

The impressive stone building was built in 1831 by Alexander Fraser and called the *Valley Inn* or the *Woolpack Inn*. Fraser had been the first postmaster at Penrith in 1828, and was the son-in-law of Reverend Henry Fulton, being married to his daughter Lydia in 1827. He had been a teacher at Henry Fulton's Castlereagh 'Academy' around 1825, and a clerk at the Penrith Court. He had been transported to the colony in 1818, and by the time of his marriage he owned 110 acres where he ran cattle. He found the post office position difficult due to the costs of postage (before postage stamps, relying on the collection of cash), making it hard for him to earn a decent income, hence the establishment of an inn. The post office was burnt down in 1834, and Fraser was succeeded in a new building by Charles Simms in 1835.

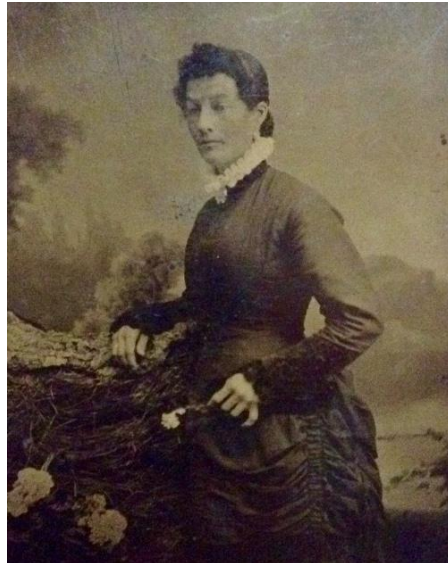
When passing through in 1835 James backhouse described the *Woolpack Inn* as a *plain, country inn ... having moderate accommodation*.

In 1839 the licensee was Dr Thomas Redfern and his wife and they called the premises the *Woolpack Inn*. 'X.L.' took a tour to the west in this year and wrote of his journey in the *Commercial Journal and Advertiser*. He advised that his troupe arrived late at the Inn and Mr Redfern apologized that the Inn was full. However, his wife managed to find a comfortable sleeping place and they passed a 'quiet repose' until morning. X.L. then travelled on towards the west and another inn, being the *Eagle and Child* at Hassans Walls. He noted the double sign at the *Eagle and Child* with *Three Legs of Mann* on the one side and *The Eagle and Child* on the other, the publican there being Philip Mylecharane.

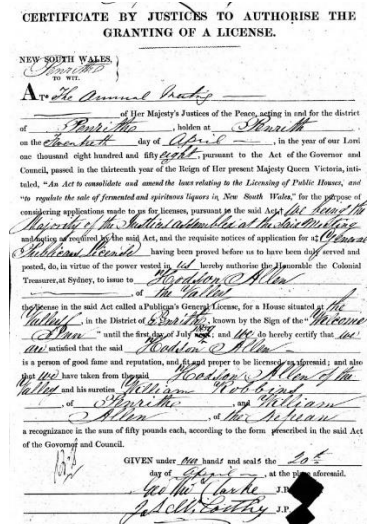
From 1840 to 1841 Philip Mylecharane (b. 1798, Isle of Mann) had moved on and was the publican of the *Woolpack Inn*. He died in 1852 at South Bowenfels.

Joseph James (1797-1852) was licensee of the *Pilgrim Inn* at Blaxland from 1843 to 1846 before buying the license of the *Woolpack Inn* at Fitzgerald's Valley in 1846. From 1846 to 1850 Joseph remained there, renamed the *Woolpack Inn* the *Welcome Inn* (which was also the name of the *Pilgrim Inn* while he was licensee), and operated it with his wife Mary. Sir Charles Fitz Roy stayed at the Inn during a journey across the mountains in 1847 and enjoyed his first taste of English beer! He was accompanied by his A.D.C. Lieutenant Colonial Mundy, who kept a journal of the journey.

James was described in the journal by Mundy, as a jolly old soldier, with a pretty daughter and a Waterloo medal, and some excellent bottled ale! Mundy wrote that James had been a campaigner in the Peninsula War in the 40th Regiment and came out to the colony in a company of veterans escorting prisoners. Mundy noted later that James received a second medal, back dated for Peninsular Service, with several clasps for general actions. Colonel Munday noted during a visit some three years later that the daughter Agnes had left for Glenbrook to be married to a Mr Scott, and that the ale had gone down by 6d a bottle. James died in 1852 and probate was granted to his wife Anna.



Mary James



License to Hodson Allen April 1858

From 1858 to 1860 Hodson Allen was the licensee of the *Welcome Inn*, which was still known as the *Valley Inn* through this period.

According to the 1868-70 Census Matthew Clarke held the license for the *Welcome Inn* at Valley Heights in 1869, and he held it through to 1870.

In 1870 the land in the vicinity of the station was purchased by the Hon. Geoffrey Eagar MLA and Colonial treasurer, who lived in the Valley at his *Tusculum* retreat. With the arrival of the railway in 1867 the Inn had closed, and a railway platform was opened as Eagar's Platform in 1875, this becoming the Valley Station in 1877 and Valley Heights Station in 1880. The second *Welcome Inn* was built opposite by Eagar, near the foot of the modern pedestrian bridge over the highway. Eagar changed the name of the former Inn to *Wyoming*, improving the grounds around the building through the import of soil for the gardens. He still owned the building in 1888. From about 1902 it operated as a boarding house until its demolition in 1937. In 1885 Eagar was listed by the Parliamentary Return of Landholders as having 114 acres and six cattle.

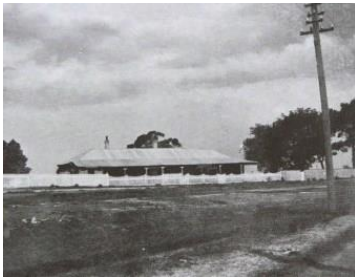
Eagar was an accountant and colonial politician and civil servant, born in Sydney in 1818 to emancipated convict, Edward Eagar, and Jemima McDuel. After a political life from 1854 to 1869, he was appointed head of the NSW Treasury in 1872 until his retirement and death in 1891.



Valley Station 1877

In 1929 it was described as a *long low building in excellent preservation*, being formerly the *Welcome Inn*.

By 1935 the former Inn was still a boarding establishment called *Wyoming*, when Gilbert Struthers stayed there. The hostess at this time was Mrs Brown, sister of the 'pretty daughter' (Agnes Scott) of Joseph James. Mrs Brown ran the guest house.



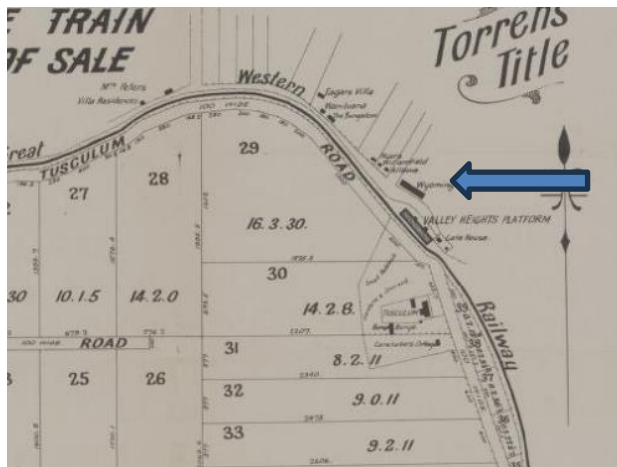
The Welcome Inn, again in the 1930s

In 1937 one T Lockley recalled the building being used for the curing of meat for Government men back in 1885. The walls were very difficult to treat with any covering such as kalsomine, paint or paperhangings, and the meat treatment contributed to the bad conditions of the walls.

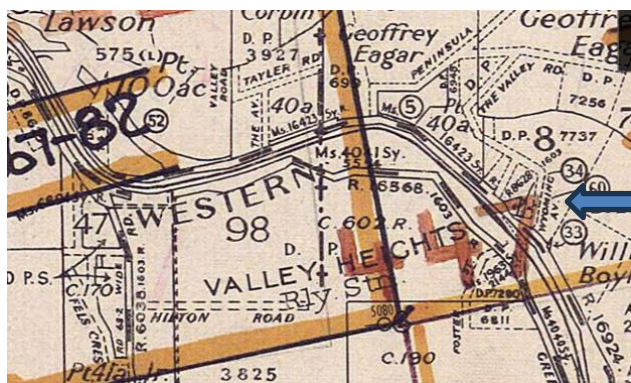
In 1937 the Royal Historical Society visited the site of the remains of the *Welcome Inn*, then being demolished by Mr EJ Wheatley of Faulconbridge. It had comprised eighteen inch thick walls and cedar doors, and on the day the visitors managed to retrieve the 10in by 6in door knocker on a silky oak panel, and a 6in key which weighed half a pound! In early 1937 the building had been purchased by two men who intended to restore it, but they found that it would cost almost as much to restore as rebuild. The original shingles would have been preserved under the later addition of iron.



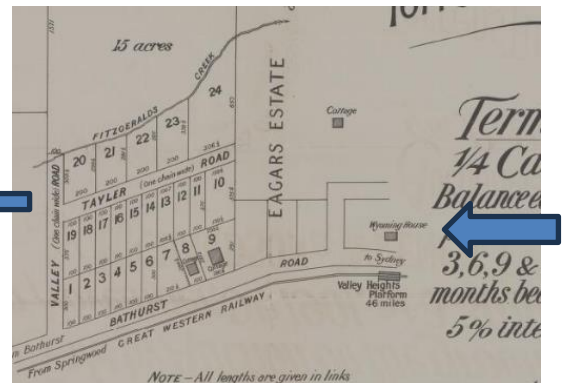
Hon Geoffrey Eagar



Extract Tusculum Estate 1901 showing 'Wyoming'



Extract Parish of Coomassie – Wyoming Ave



Extract Valley Heights Estate 1901 – Wyoming House

The Tusculum Estate was subdivided in 1901, named after the house *Tusculum* which had been built by Sir Geoffrey Eager opposite the original *Valley Inn*. The current Wyoming Avenue was part of the Wyoming Estate of 1913.

In the 1960s, the valley was subdivided into small acreages, with the real estate company creating the new name of Sun Valley. It was known for many years as part of Valley Heights, and then in the late 1990s, the Geographical Names Board agreed to officially name the location Sun Valley.

Patsy Moppett

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

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From the Editor



I am sure it is only recently that I was looking to embellish the *Heritage* Newsletter for the Christmas edition of 2023, and here we are again! The older we get the faster time flies, I am sure!

Here we provide another issue for readers containing two former inns from the region – one old and gone, the other just as old but derelict. The *Welcome Inn* (*Woolpack Inn*, *Valley Inn*) at Valley Heights was built in its first life in about 1831 and demolished in 1937. The *Jolly Frog* at Windsor was built in its first form as the *Currency Lass* in 1833. After several bouts of flood damage it was revitalised as the *Carrington Inn* in 1886. It became *Podesta's Hotel* in about 1856, and *The Jolly Frog* in 1973. In the 1980s it was also known as the *Hawkesbury Tavern*, but time retained the name of the *Jolly Frog*. It was known as the *Windsor Tavern* when it finally closed in 2007. Through changes of ownership, fires and floods it still stands, but in limbo. Much graffitied and neglected its future is uncertain. Work began in 2019 to stabilize the building, but it remains empty.

The legacy of these old inns and taverns is as a centre of the community. Their stories trace the history of a town and its people, the development of the local economy and transport system, and the natural and man-made disasters which befell many of them. We hope you enjoy reading about these further items of our regional heritage.

Look out too for another of Brian Fox's mapping articles.

With sadness we bid farewell to one of the stalwarts of our heritage community in the passing of Joan Kent in September. Joan was a professional historian and an active member of the National Trust (Lithgow Branch). It was she who curated the exhibition *A Moment in Time* in 2013, for Hartley's commemoration of the bicentenary of the crossing of

the Blue Mountains by Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth, which included publication of the book, *A Moment in Time*. Joan will be sadly missed by us all, but in particular by her husband Tom.

A new book release on the history of Lapstone and its people is set to reveal this *Secret Suburb*, which began with the retirement of Arthur Hand in 1954.

There are many events planned by the community over the coming weeks including the Transit of Venus celebration at Woodford Academy, and also events for 2025 are beginning to be formulated by many groups, including the Norman Lindsay Gallery and BMACHO.

As 2025 approaches BMACHO faces some challenges for its future, as do many other organisations who struggle for volunteers and funding. But a New Year brings new beginnings, and the opening of fresh opportunities for us all. *Carpe diem everyone!!*

As Christmas approaches and the silly season is upon us, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe, happy and peaceful New Year!

The earliest map recording the crossing of the Blue Mountains

1814 map of the Blue Mountains by Assistant Surveyor George Evans

Gregory Blaxland, Charles Wentworth and William Lawson with four servants (the servants names are not recorded in any of the three explorers' journals. However, one appears to be James Burns) started their expedition on the 11th May 1813. They followed the Blue Mountains ridges, terminating at Mount Blaxland. They returned to Emu Ford (Nepean River) on the 6th June 1813.

Six months later, on the 20th November 1813, George Evans accompanied by two free men, Richard Lewis and James Burns, and three prisoners, John Cooghan, John Grover and John Tighe, left Emu Island (Emu Plains) with orders from Governor Lachlan Macquarie.

Evans decided to defer surveying the route until his return journey from the explorers' terminal point. His plan was to move as quickly as possible while the horses were fresh and survey the land on his return. That way, if his provisions ran low, he would be closer to home to send one of his men forward to replenish supplies.

Evans' party reached Mount York on the fifth day and by nightfall had descended and camped beside the River Lett. It was at the base of Mount York that he marked a tree and started his survey by measuring westward towards what was to be known as Bathurst. After his return to River Lett and the marked tree on 31st December 1813, he continued his survey back to Emu Plains, ending on the 8th January 1814.

On his return to Sydney, he compiled the maps from his journal and survey notes. He titled his journal, *Sketch of a Tour of Discovery*.

Today the only major deviation along the Great Western Highway from Evans' original survey line between Blaxland and Mount Victoria, is at Wentworth Falls, where Evans followed the ridge (Blaxland Road).

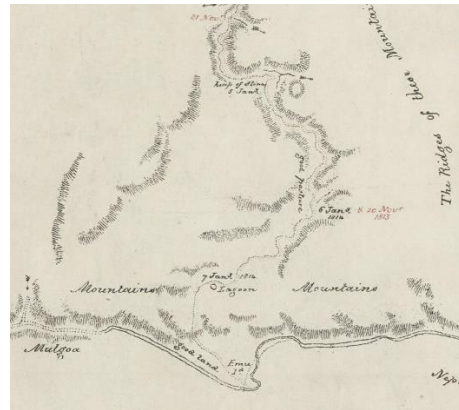
In July 1814, Governor Macquarie appointed William Cox as Superintendent of the Works for a New Road over the Blue Mountains. Cox had 30 men, 8 soldiers, and was joined by 2 natives. James Burns from Evans' survey party was Cox's right-hand man and was classified as Chief Superintendent. James Burns was in charge for a period of time as Superintendent of the forward clearing gang. John Tighe was now listed as a 'free person.' The road covering just over 101 miles (162.5kms) was completed in February 1815.

In April 1815, George Evans, now Deputy Surveyor, escorted Governor Macquarie and his entourage across the Blue Mountains, and reached what Macquarie called Bathurst on the 4th May 1815.

On the 22nd May 2008, under strict security from the NSW State Archives, Western Sydney Records Centre, four map sheets of George Evans' original maps came to the Lands Department, Bathurst. A flat bed plotter was used to scan the map sheets in high definition and have them digitally stored.



Brian Fox with original map sheets



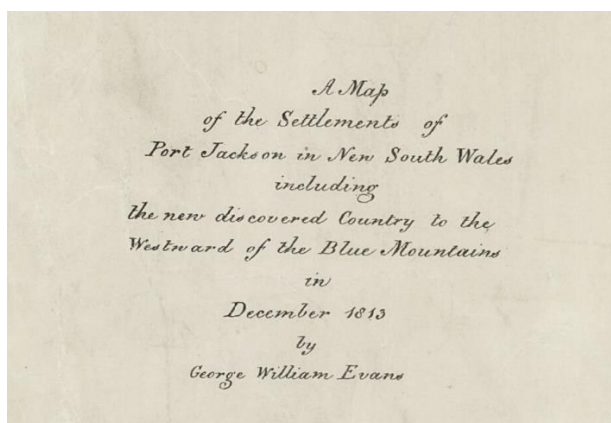
Extract Map Sheet No. 1

On the above photo, Brian Fox is examining one of the original Evans' map sheets. (Note: back then, no white gloves were required). This was one of three map sheets covering the Blue Mountains. On the borders of these map sheets penciled comments believed to have been added by William Cox, as a copy was made for his road construction.

Note: The NSW State Archives curator, suggested Evans may have made up to six or eight copies of his original maps.

The above photo of a section of map sheet number 1 shows, the start of Evans' journey, Emu l^d (Emu Plains). Red dots and text indicated Evans outward journey, and the black dots and text, his return. On his return survey, he noted, 5th January, 'heap of Stones' (wrongly attributed to William Caley) located at Linden. 7th January 1814, Lagoon (Glenbrook Lagoon).

The fourth map sheet is 110 cm x 67 cm, titled, *A Map of the Settlements of Port Jackson in New South Wales including the new discovered Country to the Westward of the Blue Mountains in December 1813* (photo below).



Title of fourth Map Sheet



George Evans

Conclusion

We all read about Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson, and then George Evans being the first European people to cross the Blue Mountains. But they were not alone. In the case of Evans' party, Richard Lewis, James Burns, John Cooghan, John Grover and John Tighe also deserve the accolades for being among the first Europeans to cross the Blue

Mountains. It is unfortunate we have no record of the members of our indigenous community who crossed before. None of the groups would have comprehended the chain of events their crossings would have led to.

Brian Fox

References

Weatherburn, A K. George Willam Evans explorer, 1966.

The Sydney Gazette and NSW Advertiser, 12 February, 1814, p. 1.

George Evans survey field book (AONSW Ref: Reel 2623)

NSW State Archives, Kingswood. Index Evans GW. Surveyor General's Crown Plans 1992-1886. INX-33-2959.

The Jolly Frog Hotel, Windsor

The thing that sticks in my mind about this building in Bridge Street, Windsor is the colour – a distinctive orange-pink colour, which I can recall from many years ago in passing the site. Given that it has a more contemporary style of architecture now, I was not aware of its long history. It was indeed one of the early inn establishments of the Green Hills, in one of Macquarie's five towns, Windsor. Settlement in the locality began in the 1790s and Macquarie proclaimed Windsor a town in 1810.

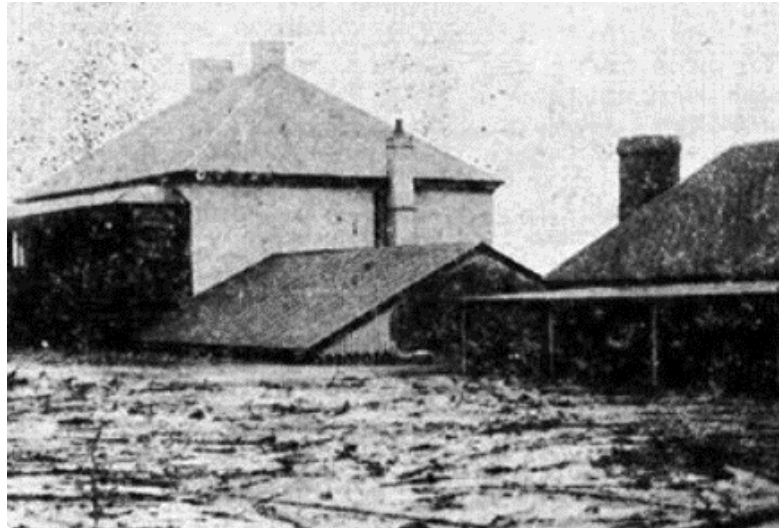
The well known and still operating *Macquarie Arms Hotel* in Windsor dates back to 1815, built by Richard Fitzgerald by order of Governor Macquarie. However, the first inn on the Bridge Street site adjacent to the Fitzroy Bridge over South Creek was opened in 1833 as the *Currency Lass*. Early maps of the Town of Windsor showed this land to be owned by soldier William Johnston, one of seven lots he was granted, singularly or with other soldiers. South Creek posed serious problems for the site from the beginning, with floods of varying heights often inundating any buildings along the lower reaches of Bridge Street. The creek was first bridged by Andrew Thompson's floating bridge in 1802. In 1813 John Howe managed the construction of a log bridge. In 1848 a timber arched bridge was constructed and named after Governor Fitzroy. The bridge was replaced again 1853 and was then followed by an iron bridge built between 1879 and 1881. The current concrete bridge was built in 1974. It can be safely assumed that much of the bridge rebuilding was required as a result of flood damage over the years.

A licence was first granted to James Cullen in 1833 for the *Currency Lass*. James Cullen had been one of six children born to Patrick Cullen and Elizabeth McNamara in about 1809 (they were not married until 1811). Patrick was an Irish convict, a sawyer, who came to Australia in 1802 on the ship *Atlas I*. They were married in Sydney but settled at Windsor. Patrick became a publican, '*and an honest man*', so it followed that his son was the same. Young James took up the *Currency Lass* license and later married Elizabeth Dargin in 1838 at St Philips Church, Sydney. They settled in Windsor and James also ran the *Butcher's Arms* in George Street in 1840. However, Elizabeth died in Windsor in 1850, having had four children. James appears to have gone on to the goldfields, dying in 1870 at Tambaroora. James Gosper was the next licensee and was one of four children born to Thomas Gosper and Mary Ann Hipwell at Freeman's Reach. Thomas had been a convict transported in 1789 on the ship *Surprise*. He married Mary Ann (also a convict, transported on the ship *Mary Ann* in 1791) in 1810 at Mulgrave Place, where they settled on what became known as Gosper's Farm. Young James was born in 1805 and he married Margaret Marsden in 1827 at Windsor. They appear to have taken on the *Currency Lass* license in Margaret's name. However, Margaret died in 1837, leaving James with four children on their farm. The license to the *Currency Lass* was then issued again in Margaret's name in 1839 and 1840, presumably to James Gosper.

Mr John Shearing then held the license. Although he was there for a longer period, he subsequently moved on to run the *Peninsular Hotel* on Lot 18 in the Peninsula Estate along North Street in 1842.

In 1851 Michael Egan was the publican. In the same year a license was issued to William Brown & then to Reuben Bullock, both for Bridge Street, presumably for the *Currency Lass*.

The building was used as a school and private residence around the time of the 1867 flood. From 1860 to 1875, a Mr. R.W. Thornton had a school in Bridge Street, which may have been the one. In 1866 Frank O'Donnell's house was located on the site, which he also ran as an inn. The 1867 flood affected this and the adjoining properties in a major way, leaving the precinct rundown and quite an eyesore. Luckily the site was unaffected by the 1874 Windsor town fire, but the ensuing economic drain on the whole community resulted in the post flood renovation of the properties in bridge Street being a low priority.

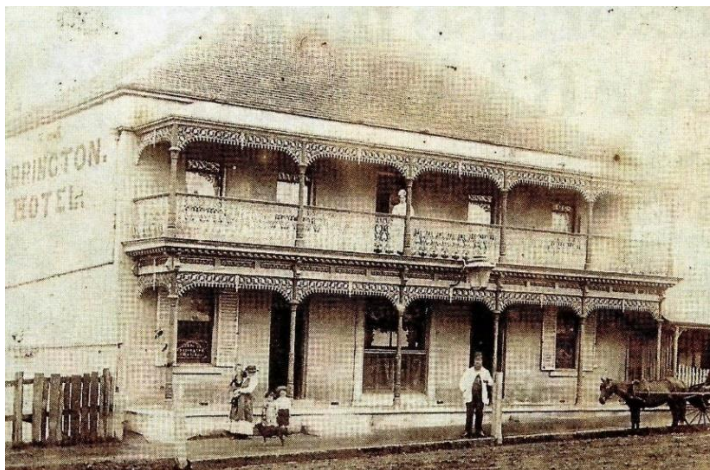


Early flooding of the building and adjoining cottages

Other publicans during this period included Richard and Mrs D Maher, Mr Clare, A. Dalton, 1857, Mr McDonald, 1864, and a James Gosper from 1866-67.

In 1886 when Robert and Emily Huggins purchased the inn and the adjoining land, Mrs Richard Maher (nee Ryan) was the publican. The Huggins' renamed the building the *Carrington Hotel*, after Lord Carrington, Governor of NSW from 1885 to 1890. Previous to this the structure had been neglected, sometimes vacant, and extensive renovations were required before reopening could take place. Huggins had trouble obtaining his license due to the site being in the vicinity of the courthouse.

Huggins had left Ireland around 1877 and following a trip around the colonies including the West Indies, he arrived at the Green Hills where he first managed the *Maid of Australia* at Pitt Town for two years. By 1886 there were still a number of old houses on the Bridge Street site, which were still suffering from the 1867 flood damage. Huggins basically applied some spit and polish to the old buildings, some paint and whitewash with some remodelling and additions by local contractor RW Dunstan, to create the elegant *Carrington*.



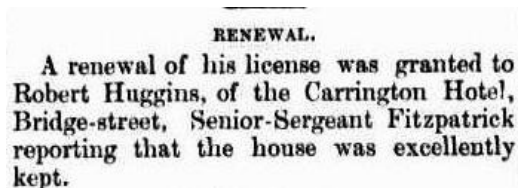
Huggins' Carrington Hotel



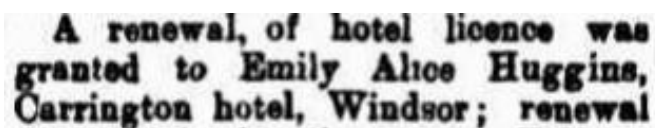
The Hotel from the Fitzroy Bridge

The place was celebrated in the Hawkesbury Chronicle in 1886, with Huggins being seen as a ... *town improver* ...!, describing the work in detail. They elaborated on the verandah and its ironwork, the woodwork and window treatments, the filling of the rear of the block and the fencing of the site, stables, sheds and a kitchen garden.

Inside they described the extensive bar and cellar, the mirrors, plants in vases and *a smaller snugger where a few friends may drink their lager in peace*... The rooms had been made over including a large dining room. The kitchen was detached, and the water supply was amply provided from a well, and a lift was to be provided for upstairs access. Furniture was new and included carpets and chandeliers, and gas was laid on. Two adjacent cottages were to be refurbished in association with the place.



1888 license renewal



1903 license renewal

It is said that one thousand loads of material were carted to raise the rear yard above the flood level in 1892.

Huggins was also an alderman of the local Borough Council. Robert Huggins died in June 1900, being survived by his wife Emily, and three sons and two daughters. Emily Alice Huggins had the business registered in her name and remarried in 1903 to Dominic G Gallagher. She carried on the business until 1908, after which she moved away. Dominic died in 1919 and she may have remarried again.

From 1908 to 1955 various publicans service the clientele, including George Robert James and Mrs. N. Robson. Patrick Francis O'Connor was also in charge at one point, having *O'Connor's Carrington Hotel* painted on the side of the building.

In 1935 James Meehan held the license. This was transferred in 1936 to Edith Vera McHugh (Vera). The hotel was known to be a well-run establishment under her management, proving comfortable accommodation for travellers and genial atmosphere for locals.

In 1941 it was transferred to a John Schaffer and over the next two years there were at least six changes of licensee until stability was restored again under the management of McHugh from 1943 to 1946.

By the early 1950s, the late Victorian façade and interior were considered old fashioned and past their prime. In 1956 the inn became *Podesta's Hotel*. Frank John (Don) Podesta and his family hailed from Genova, Italy. His wife Freda was from Balmain. The Hawkesbury Directory for 1956 advertised the re-modelled premises as ... *excellent accommodation, meals and general hotel comfort* ... Don owned the hotel with his mother. The Hotel management proved challenging with numerous floods devastating the building.

Don, who was born at Balmain, died suddenly at the hotel in 1965 aged 40, and is buried at Waverley with his father and grandfather.



Podesta's 1956 flood



Podesta's 1961 flood



Podesta's during flood

Subsequently from 1967 the Hotel was managed by Albert and Margaret Hill. They lived at, leased and managed Podesta's. They moved on to Newmarket Hotel Central in 1971. The Hotel did reopen and became *The Jolly Frog* in 1973 and 1974, but the 1978 flood once again caused damage. In the 1980s it was known as the *Hawkesbury Tavern*. In 2001 Norma Needham and Hawkesbury Valley Holden purchased the site. Plans were proposed for redevelopment but never carried out. It traded as the *Verandah Restaurant and Bar* at some point. Finally in 2006 the name reverted back to *The Jolly Frog Family Hotel* after a million dollar refurbishment, and it remained open until 2011, when it was closed. For a time during this period it had also been known as the *Windsor Tavern*.



Possibly the 1978 flood



Rear view 2005



2013, before the 2014 fire

A Development Control Plan was developed by Hawkesbury Council in 2006 to address the redevelopment of the building within the Macquarie and Bridge Streets precinct. Its aims

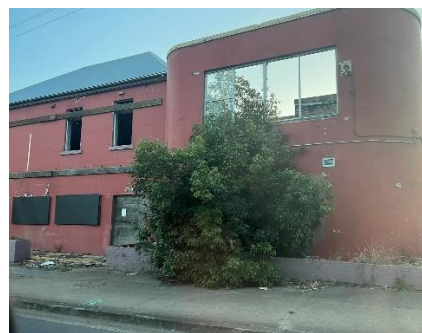
were to restore the '*Jolly Frog*' building, also known as the *Windsor Hotel*, to its appearance in the 1900's (when it was Podesta's), to use the curtilage of the building as an access for heavy vehicle and storage of cars for the adjoining Hawkesbury Valley Holden site, to provide vehicle access and parking to the new building and the *Windsor Hotel*, and to ensure that known or potential places of Aboriginal history were conserved and/or historically documented as appropriate.

Specifics were set down as to how this restoration was to be carried out, with the requirement for a development application to be accompanied by a conservation management plan. Allowance was made for adaptive reuse.

In 2012 the building was given a local heritage listing by Hawkesbury Council. However, the fire in the building in 2014, set by persons unknown, was devastating.



After 2014 fire



Renovation underway

By 2015 the building had been stabilized and any asbestos on the site had been managed. But considerable work was going to be needed to redevelop the building. Hawkesbury Council held discussions with the owner and various strategies were established as a way forward to rescue the building.

In 2017 the owner of the building advised that The Jolly Frog would go back to its historic name of the *Carrington Hotel*, and the old section of the building complex would be the centrepiece of an external landscaped garden bar and restaurant built around a live music stage. However, by 2019, although rebuilding had begun, it then stopped, and the building remains as we see it today.



The Jolly Frog 2024



Patsy Moppett

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

Vale Joan Kent

It is with sadness and regret that we advise the passing of one of the most active and knowledgeable members of the heritage community in Joan Kent.

Joan held an Honours Degree in History from Macquarie University, Sydney, and a Master's Degree in Social Science from the University of Birmingham as the holder of a British

Australian Bicentenary Scholarship. She worked as a professional historian and as the Research Historian to the National Parks & Wildlife Service.



An exceptional achievement in her heritage career resulted in her curation of the 2013 Commemoration of the European Crossing of the Blue Mountains, which culminated in the outstanding exhibition *A Moment in Time*. It was the centre piece of Hartley's 2013 commemoration of the bicentenary of the crossing of the Blue Mountains by Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth. Joan followed up the exhibition with publication of the book, *A Moment in Time*. The project will remain as her legacy to the colonial and First Nations heritage of the Hartley Valley and the wider community.

Joan was a long time member of the National Trust and served as an officer of the local Lithgow Branch. This represented a natural extension of her original role as historian for the National Parks and Wildlife Service, an office she held up until the 1990's.

In retirement, together with her husband Tom, she operated an alpaca breeding stud in the Kanimbla Valley. Joan also delved deeply into the research and documentation of her own and Tom's family history.

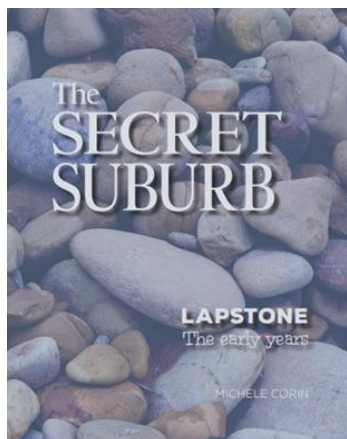
Joan was also on the BMACHO Management Committee, being Treasurer in 2012-2013. One of the BMACHO Management Committee meetings was actually held at Joan and Tom's alpaca farm.

Joan passed away on 19th September 2024, and will be remembered for her intellect, sense of humour and generosity and for the warmth of her life long relationship with her husband, Tom.

A celebration of Joan's life was held at the historic, St Bernards Church, (1846) Hartley Historic Site, on 26th September, which was attended by family members and friends and colleagues from Hartley and the heritage community.

Book Review: The Secret Suburb: Lapstone – The early years

By Michele Corin



In December 1954, the '*Father of Lapstone*' delayed his retirement plans of playing relaxing rounds of golf at his favourite course in Blackheath. Instead, Arthur Hand (then aged 66 years) bought 116 acres to develop the suburb of Lapstone.

The Secret Suburb, Lapstone – The early years tells the story of Arthur realising his dream to create a small suburb with big differences.

The Blue Mountains Gazette had a great story about the '*Lapstone turns 70 picnic*' held on Sunday 20th October: *Lapstone marks 70 years: A community's celebration picnic: Blue Mountains Gazette: Katoomba, NSW*

The book is only available by pre-ordering prior to Friday 8th November 2024. No stock will be carried of the book. It will only be available by pre-ordering, at a cost of \$40 plus \$12.95 postage. Payment is applicable upon ordering.

If you would like to order the book (or know anyone who might be interested in ordering a copy), please email lapstonebook@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE THE CLOSING DATE FOR ARTICLES AND NOTIFICATIONS TO THE EDITOR FOR THE JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2025 ISSUE OF HERITAGE IS FRIDAY 27th DECEMBER 2024

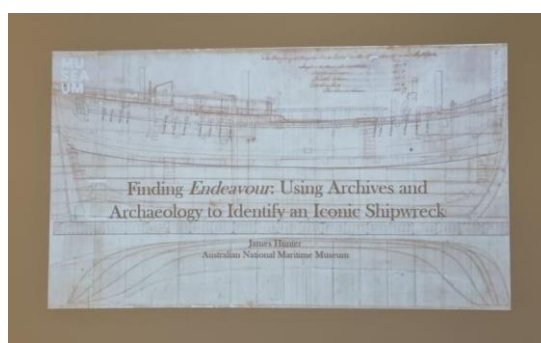
Community events & updates

Discovery of HM Bark Endeavour

Recently BMACHO and visitors at the Hawkesbury Regional Museum were treated to a thrilling presentation by Dr James Hunter, Curator of Naval Heritage and Archaeology at the Australian National Maritime Museum. Dr Hunter has been involved in the fields of historical and maritime archaeology for over twenty years and participated in the investigation of several internationally significant shipwreck sites in the US. His research has also explored the history and archaeology of torpedo boat defences utilised by the colonial and early national navies of Australia and New Zealand, shipwreck surveys of Australia's first submarine *AE1* in Papua New Guinea, and the WWII light cruiser *HMAS Perth (I)* in Indonesia.



Dr Hunter answers questions



On the day he presented details from a major investigative project, the journey undertaken towards the identification of *HM Bark Endeavour's* shipwreck site in 1997 in the USA – *Using Archives and Archaeology to identify an Iconic Shipwreck*. *Endeavour* had travelled around the world under the command of Lieutenant James Cook before ending up at the bottom of Newport Harbour, Rhode Island. The vessel was built in 1764 at Whitby, England, and went by three different names during its lifetime. She ended her life at Newport Harbour in about 1778, and investigations since 1997 have utilized a wide range of site dives and archived resources to make a positive identification.

Dr Hunter's excitement was infectious as he told the search story, and his enthusiasm for the discoveries left us all on the edge of our seats! He advises that he has many more discoveries to share and would be happy to talk to us again some time.

The captive audience certainly enjoyed the morning, and BMACHO wishes to thank Dr Hunter, and also Hawkesbury Regional Museum for agreeing to host the event.

Presentation: School Tours of your Museum

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



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

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

Presentation: Telling Stories

A few years ago (2016) BMACHO's conference at Mt Victoria had the theme of 'Artefact', when we were treated to a fascinating day of story telling by numerous speakers who captured our imagination. We heard stories relating to artefacts from coal mining to quilting, an antique watch and the Gardner's Inn keystone, Scottish castles, and collections at the Hawkesbury and Gunnedah museums. The outcome of the day was the production of *Occasional Papers No. 2 Artefact*, which brought all those stories together. See the BMACHO website.



BMACHO is set to hold a half day event in March 2025 to allow people to once again tell their stories. The date and location have not been determined as yet, but we urge you to drag out the family or town memorabilia and bring it along with a short story describing its provenance. It could be a photo, or an old tool, some jewellery or a doll, a precious book, a certificate or a pipe!

Each speaker would be given about 15 minutes to share their tale of days gone by.

So although we cannot save a date as yet, we have time to consider what tales we wish to share with our heritage community!

Final dates for the above two BMACHO presentations will be further advised in the January-February edition of Heritage, which is issued on or about 31st December 2024, and also via email to your organisation.

Update: National Trust Norman Lindsay Gallery and Museum, Faulconbridge

Early in 2024 the National Trust (Blue Mountains Branch) obtained the services of a new Operations & Events Manager, Zoe Jerrat, at the Norman Lindsay Gallery and Museum, a National Trust property at Faulconbridge.



Zoe's background in museums, tourism, hospitality and the Botanic Gardens will enable her to assist the property to reinvigorate visitation, aided by at least three assistants for various duties and a keen band of volunteers.

Recent events in May and August certainly made inroads into this outcome, and pending activities will add to the attraction that is Norman Lindsay. The current exhibition, *Sirens*, will be followed by the *Norman Lindsay Literary Illustrations* featuring never seen before original pen and wash illustrations for Dickens' *Great Expectations*, as put forward by Norman Lindsay's granddaughter.

The team are developing a family friendly map to encourage use of the NLG bushwalk (oldest privately owned and maintained bushwalk in NSW) to encourage outdoor activity. The National Parks & Wildlife Service have been consulted and all feel as though it would be good for a smaller bush walk for children and schools, under the *Bushtrackers* map series. The cafe has now been vacant for eight months, although the premises has been hired out from time to time for workshops. Several business groups have looked at the café with a view to renting, but no offers have been forthcoming as yet.

At our recent meeting with Zoe, BMACHO was able to suggest users of the space, such as Blue Mountains Hospitality School to see if they would like to use the space for their students, and the BMCC Dark Skies initiative, arts faculties at local schools, and students as volunteers under the Duke of Edinburgh program, Blue Mountains hotels, Hotel Etico and TAFE.

The *Norman Lindsay Vintage Fair* will be held as usual in May 2025, where a number of car clubs come along. With an aim for three major events each year, the *Dogs Day Out* will feature again, as well as *Jazz in the Garden in March 2025*. These events prove to be major fundraisers, which is needed for maintenance and upkeep around the Museum and Gallery. A Garden Management Plan is proposed, and the National Trust is currently working on a new Strategic Plan which will help guide direction into the future.

BMACHO wishes Zoe and her team success in their endeavours!

Patsy Moppett

Anzac Community Grants Program

The NSW Government established the Anzac Community Grants Program (ACGP) in 2015 to help promote appreciation and understanding of the service and sacrifice of military service personnel, and support activities and services to enhance the wellbeing of the NSW veteran community.

Applications for the Grants Program opened on 11th September 2024. The Program provides grants of up to \$3,000 for projects that commemorate and educate NSW communities about the service and sacrifices of current and former military servicemen and service women, as well as activities benefiting the NSW veteran community.

Individuals and not-for-profit organisations, including local governments, ex-service organisations, and educational institutions are eligible to apply.



Applications close 11th November 2024, and results will be announced in mid February 2025.

For further information regarding the guidelines, criteria, project requirements and to apply, contact www.veterans.nsw.gov.au/ACGP

Transit of Venus Celebration at Woodford Academy

Woodford Academy is holding a celebration to mark the 150th anniversary of the 18th century observation of the Transit of Venus from the Academy site. The event is planned for Sunday 8th December from 2pm. (The actual anniversary is the 9th December).

Talk will include the history and scientific importance of the transit observations. Learn about the Active Sun, sunspots, aurora and space weather, and observe sunspots in real time and from space.

Management is pleased to be able to offer pre-sale booking to members of BMACHO affiliates at the concession rate. Pre-sale is only open to invitees until general sales commence on 1 November.

Booking at: <https://www.123tix.com.au/events/46097/transit-of-venus-at-woodford>



Observation camp 1874 at Woodford

Annual General Meetings

Colo Shire Family History Group Inc

Meeting held 19th October 2024

- President: Joy Shepherd
- Vice President: Glenn Townsend
- Secretary: Neil Renaud
- Treasurer: Maree Windress
- Committee: Robyne Ayres, Patricia Carter, Carol Tate
- Public Officer: Jill Renaud.

Mt Victoria & District Historical Society

Meeting held 26th October 2024

- President: Jack Thompson
- Vice-President: Jill Sillar
- Secretary: Brian Roby
- Treasurer: Steve Tusler
- Committee: Kay Graham, Roy Bennett, Tim Jones, Michael Noonan.

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.

Richard White will be the keynote speaker, presenting the Ian Jack Address. Richard retired from the University of Sydney in 2013, having taught Australian history and the history of travel and tourism there since 1989. He will speak about cultural tourism and the role it plays in recreation and entertainment.

The other speakers have been confirmed and topics include pianists in the guest houses; the adaptive reuse of Katoomba theatres; arts, culture and entertainment, and the many artists who visited the Blue Mountains to perform; and the many reuses of the Victory Theatre at Blackheath. Most exciting will be a radio play to be presented by Blue Mountains Radio Players!



Postcard from 1908

The venue will be the Carrington Hotel at Katoomba which provides limited onsite parking, with community parking nearby, and close access to the railway station for travellers. Considerable accommodation opportunities are available at the Hotel and in the vicinity. The Carrington, of course has been a premier venue for entertainment and the arts from its construction in 1881-1882 through to today.

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

Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail Update

BMACHO has not been able to maintain the Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail due to financial reasons and lack of success with funding applications. However, we continue to promote our members' various events on the BMACHO website and the BMACHO Facebook page.

A page about the former Trail can still be viewed on the BMACHO website <http://bluemountainsheritage.com.au/greater-blue-mountains-heritage-trail/>

If you are a member and you would like further information, or if you would like to become a member, please email BMACHO at committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au
For general information about BMACHO, see <http://bluemountainsheritage.com.au>



BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

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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; 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 the *Heritage* Newsletter originate from many sources and contributors. Every effort is taken to ensure accuracy of material. Content does not necessarily represent or reflect the views and opinions of BMACHO, its committee or its members. If errors are found feedback is most welcome.