

# *Heritage*

*Newsletter of the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural  
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*



## **An architect for the colony: James Johnstone Barnet**

Beginning with Francis Greenway in 1816, New South Wales has always had a government architect to oversee building works. Following Greenway there came nine more colonial architects up to Walter Liberty Vernon over the next 95 years, who were all notable in their own right for the early development of the colony under a variety of governors and local patrons.

- Francis Greenway (1816–1822)
- Standish Lawrence Harris (1822-1824)
- George Cookney (1825–1826)
- Ambrose Hallen (1832–1834)
- Mortimer Lewis (1835–1849)
- Edmund Thomas Blacket (1849–1854)
- William Weaver (1854–1856)
- Alexander Dawson (1856–1862)
- James Barnet (1862–1890)
- Walter Liberty Vernon (1890–1911)

Thirteen further appointees held the position from 1911 up until 2019 when the 24<sup>th</sup> architect was employed and who still holds that position. Abbie Galvin is the first female NSW Government Architect in the role's 200-year history.

The three most notable architects were Lewis, Barnet and Vernon who held the position for 14, 21 and 28 years respectively.

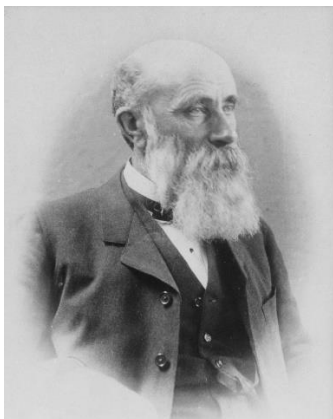
Governor Lachlan Macquarie sought to undertake significant building works in the new colony, to support his dream that Sydney had the potential to become a city to be proud of. With his ideals that convicts could be rehabilitated and achieve greatness through hard work and perseverance, he used many of those emancipists' skills to develop his plan for the town, and Greenway was a prime example. Although his hold on the position was often tenuous due to his abrasive personality, his early works were quite remarkable under Governor Macquarie.

### ***James Johnstone Barnet***

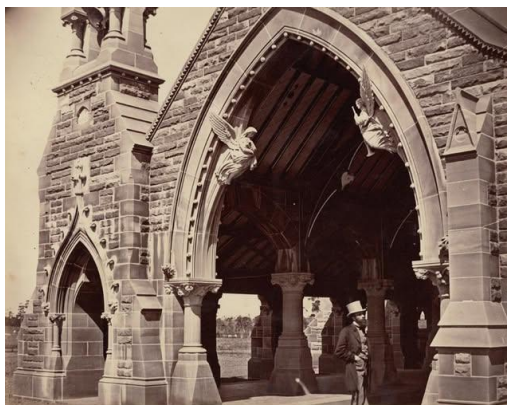
By far the longest serving colonial architect was James Johnstone Barnet, and in this article we seek to see something of the man who saw the colony through from a Georgian town to a Victorian city. He served under several Governors, but his term commenced under Sir John Young (Governor-in-Chief 1861-1867).

Barnet was born at Almericlose, Arbroath in Scotland in 1827, a son of Thomas Barnet (builder) and his wife Mary, nee McKay. Young Thomas had received an education at his local school in London, moving there from Scotland in 1843, and then he worked as a stonemason. He went on to study drawing, design and architecture. He married Amy Gosling in July 1854, and they arrived in New South Wales later that same year. They had migrated to Sydney under the Family Colonisation Loan Society scheme, a ship chartering a small loan service established by Caroline Chisolm to help families emigrate to Australia.

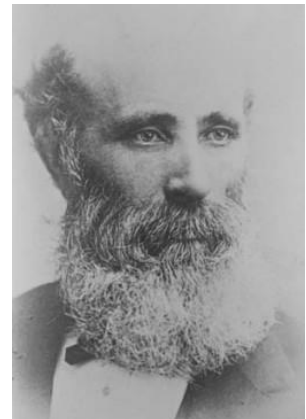
At first, he undertook building work, and then became clerk of works at Sydney University under Edmund Blacket, the government architect from 1849-1854. In 1860 James joined the Colonial Architect's Office, becoming its head two years later, and colonial architect in 1865. He had joined the Office after the gold rush when the demand across the state for civic buildings was high, and followed architect Alexander Dawson into the position, inheriting an amount of unauthorized building works.



*James Barnet*



*Barnet at Rookwood 1871*



*James Barnet*

His work in Sydney included the Australian Museum, the GPO in Martin Place, the Colonial Secretary's building, the Lands Department building and many other significant buildings and even light houses (including replacement of the lighthouse designed by Greenway on South Head). He also designed many post and telegraph offices further afield in the colony, many courthouses and other public buildings. This included in the order of 169 post offices, 130 court houses, 110 goals and lockups, 155

police stations, and 20 lighthouses. He was given charge of the reception for the Duke of Edinburgh's visit to Sydney in 1868, and then the design and construction of the Sydney International Exhibition building in 1869.

He was also employed on defence works for the colony with new barracks and batteries. This work was at first praised by government officials, but due to delaying tactics by the new Public Works Department from 1889 and a lack of staff, Barnet eventually came under fire. A Royal Commission was set up which supposedly found below standard construction on projects and lack of supervision by the architect, expenditure insufficiently controlled, all as reported by Barnet's subordinates. Barnet's evidence sought to contradict the findings, but he was not believed. He was found guilty of gross indifference towards his duties and of insubordination to the minister for Public Works. This ended his career. Barnet was the last Colonial Architect as such, as the office was restructured following his departure. Over his long career, Barnet served sixteen ministers and oversaw the construction of over a thousand buildings.

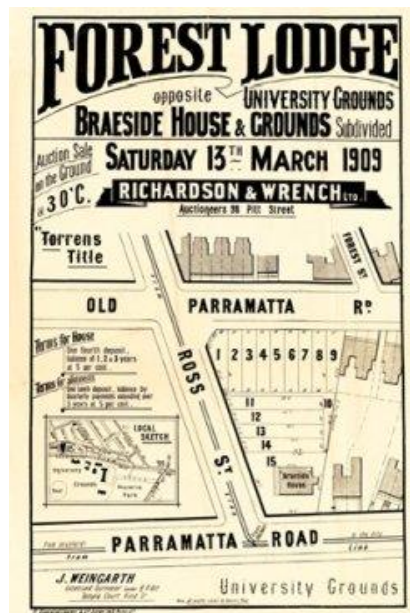
In 1885 Barnet was granted 12 month's leave from his duties to travel to Europe, where he and his wife toured Venice and visited the continent's major art centres. He also visited England and performed some duties in relation to his work, inspecting buildings relevant to his latest building projects in Australia. They returned to Sydney just before Christmas 1885 and he was back at work a few days later.

Thomas and Amy lived at Glebe and then from 1867 in a house of Barnet design, *Braeside* (now demolished), at Forest Lodge during their sojourn in Sydney. They had four daughters and three sons, two of whom also became architects.

Their eldest child Amy was born in Glebe in 1856. She was followed by four more daughters and a son born on Glebe Rd: Lilia (1858-1928), Rosa (1859- 1940), Enid (born 1861), Maud (1862-1949) and James Jnr (1865-1932). In 1867 the family moved to *Braeside* a two-storey building on the corner of Ross St and Parramatta Rd, designed by Barnet and built by his own stonemasons, where two more sons were born: Thomas (1867-1931) and Donald McKay (1869-1940). James Jnr and Thomas followed their father's profession, while Donald became a clergyman.



Amy Barnet with baby Amy 1856



Sale of the Braeside Estate 1909



Amy had died in 1889 aged just 59, attended by James, when he left his office each day to go home and care for her. James Barnet died at *Braeside* aged 78 in 1904 due to a bronchial infection from which he had not strength to recover. He was buried beside his wife in the Presbyterian section at Rookwood Cemetery.

### ***Blue Mountains Legacy***

In relation to the Blue Mountains, we are fortunate to share elements of Barnet's legacy across the region. During the 1870s and 1880s he undertook works at Lithgow, Richmond and Windsor, and just beyond the region, at Bathurst and Carcoar. He designed the courthouse at Lithgow in 1879 and undertook the additions to Greenway's Windsor courthouse in 1886. Both buildings are still operational. Richmond courthouse was completed in 1879 and now houses the Veterans' and Families' Hub for the Hawkesbury. Bathurst courthouse was completed in 1888, and Carcoar in 1882. The Bathurst courthouse is still operational, and the Carcoar courthouse is now a museum. Barnet designed the Richmond post office in 1870 and the (now former) Windsor post office in 1880.



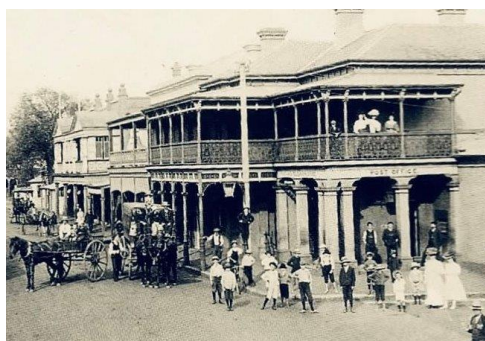
*Former Richmond Courthouse 1870s and 2013*



*Windsor Courthouse*



*Lithgow Courthouse*



*Early Windsor Post office*





*Windsor Post Office - now*



*Richmond Post Office*



*Carcoar Courthouse*



*Bathurst Courthouse*

Barnet had encouraged new technologies and made use of concrete and fire resistant materials, installing electricity, and eventually telephones in some premises. He stood by the use of traditional construction, discarding newer American influences. It is said Barnet was an able administrator who established a pattern of organisation in the Architects' Office which was to become the prototype for future large architectural offices.

Despite similarities between buildings, templates as such were not used, although he would have designed the buildings to a government standard of the Victorian period. Local materials and resources were used where possible, and his buildings were well built and well designed. Many of his public buildings remain with alterations and in some instances perform a different purpose to their initial intention. *Patsy Moppett*

#### *References:*

[www.glebesociety.org.au/AboutGlebe/History](http://www.glebesociety.org.au/AboutGlebe/History)

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*James Barnet, the Colonial Architect: Michele Harper, Harbour Trust 2020*

*One Man: Over 1300 Public Buildings: James Barnet: JML 297 Musings from the Mountains 2017*

*Sketch: Design for a Free Public Library, 1883: State Library of NSW*

*James Johnstone Barnet (1827-1904): Obituaries Australia, SMH 17<sup>th</sup> December 1904*

*Self-Guided Tours in Glebe: The Glebe Society*

*Who Lived on Your Street: James Johnstone Barnet: Lyn Collingwood, The Glebe Society 1918*

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## ***From the Editor***

Plenty of community news for readers this issue, with updates on member activities and AGMs in the wind. Changing of the guard will be reported by BMACHO in the Newsletter regularly, with more AGMs pending towards the end of the year.

Springtime activities abound, which would be set out in members' Newsletters, most of which we did not receive before this issue went out. However, the New Year will bring plenty of activities so our next issue for January-February 2026 will be able to bring you up to date for the summer.

The book launch at Bilpin for the Bush Explorers' latest book should provide plenty of summer time reading, walks and exploring to be done around that sector of the Wollemi. In addition, the book will present a much-needed history of Bilpin itself, which should unearth some interesting features.

There are some significant architect designed buildings across the Blue Mountains and it is interesting to note when those early well known colonial architects were asked to design for the mountain villages and beyond. This time we look at James Barnet and will progress that subject further with other notaries in the next issue.

How many times do you travel around and cross rivers, streams, creeks, and stop to think who they were named after? Sometimes it is obvious (being named for local dignitaries etc), but other times it can lead to fascinating stories – hence Shaw's Creek. We hope you enjoy this edition, and we wish you a merry and safe Christmas with family and friends!



## ***Shaw's Creek, Castlereagh***

Shaw's Creek passes under the Hawkesbury Road, some 16km north of Springwood. In wondering who Shaw's Creek was named after, I did not realise what a Pandora's box I was opening.

Certainly it was named after the Shaw family, who owned property in the area.

However, the land in the vicinity has a much earlier and wider history. The wonder is that, given the land changed hands before Shaw acquired it, and several times after he disposed of it, the name Shaw stuck, to the point where the settlement farm is still known as Shaw's Farm. Not to mention the earlier and current significant Indigenous history of the place, which goes back many thousands of years.

My curiosity began in finding that a James Shaw operated the Lord Byron Inn at Blaxland on the Lapstone Hill from 1838 to 1839, dying in 1839. So, who was James Shaw? Then I remembered Shaw's Creek and wondered if there was a connection. It was a small world back then. However, following the Shaw's Creek angle, unfortunately I went down a rabbit hole and have not revisited James at all since!

The Shaw's Creek Cultural Walk at Castlereagh highlights the Shaw Farm site, just above the river and to the south of where Shaw's Creek joins the Nepean. The Cultural Walk is a declared sacred place due to its significance to Aboriginal culture, within the Yellomundee Regional Park. It was declared Aboriginal Place No. 47 in Gazettal No. 59 on 30 June 2014. An extension was carried out to the lands in 2022. We will cover some First Nations history later in this article.

### ***Landscape***

Geographical features in the locality include Shaw's Ridge, Shaw's Creek, Shaw's pathway, Shaw's Pool, Shaw's Island and Shaw's farm, so the family certainly left their mark.

Shaw's Ridge commences just to the north of Winmalee shopping area and traverses to the north above Blue Gum Swamp Creek on its western side. It then turns to the east, and heads almost to the Nepean River, flanked by Blue Gum Swamp Creek to the north and Shaw's Creek to the south, as depicted on the Springwood 1:25,000 topographical map 2000.

Shaw's Creek has its source in various drainage lines down from the western sector of Shaw's Ridge and flows east below the Ridge to the River, just north of Shaw's Farm. Shaw's pathway is an out-and-back track of 1.8km, from the end of Booker Street at Hawkesbury Heights to a point overlooking Shaw's Creek. Shaw's Pool is to be found at the end of this pathway, down on Shaw's Creek. Shaw's Island is formed within the Nepean River adjacent to Shaw's Farm, comprising a loose rock and sand bank which was quarried in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and later in the 1970s and 1980s. It is now mostly Crown land, except a piece at the downstream end which is privately owned for grazing.

### ***Shaw's farm and the Shaw family***

The site of Shaw's Farm was first settled from 1835 by a former convict Matthew (Mathew) Clark (Clarke), as shown on the map for the Parish of Nepean, being Portions 59 and 65.



*Extract Parish of Nepean 1903 showing Portions 59 and 65, granted to Matthew Clark [sic]*

Mathew came to Australia in August 1815 on the ship *Canada* aged 26. Mathew was born in Ireland in 1789 and was listed as a general labourer. He was convicted at Cavan for an unknown crime and sentenced to 7 years transportation. It was recorded that he had a wife named Mary, back in Ireland. By about 1818-1819 Mathew had gained another partner in Australia, Jane Kennedy, and over time together they had 12 children. At the 1928 Census he and Jane had five of those offspring – Mary (9), James (7), Ann (5), Peter (4) and Bridget (3). Patrick became their sixth child soon after. At that stage Mathew was free by servitude and was probably assigned to Jane. The Donald Kennedy's, her relations, owned land on the eastern side of the river. Mathew and Jane never married, although the Census listed Jane as Clark. Mathew's land grants were made in 1835 and 1840, however Mathew was sued for insolvency by 1842. The Yellomundee Regional Park Draft Plan of Management (PoM) by NPWS in 2006 found no archaeological evidence of his occupation of the site.

The Draft PoM also stated that Shaw's occupied the land in 1900-1901. However, various Trove references put the Shaw family in the Castlereagh area from the 1850s. A Catherine Cummins was born in 1838 in Ireland and came to Australia when she was 14 with her father John Cummins in 1852. She married Archibald Joseph Shaw in 1859 and they had five children over the next decade: John (1860), Ann (Annie) (1862), Archibald Joseph (Archie) (1864), William (...) and James (1868).

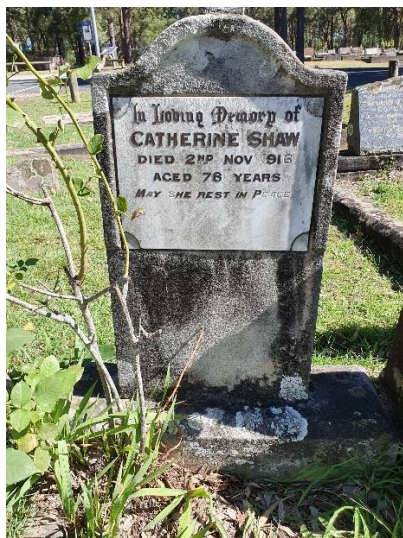
Much of the details we read about an Archibald Shaw at North Springwood refer to their son, Archie. However, the local press reported in 1861 that Archibald Shaw Snr impounded a horse from Castlereagh and advertised that if it was not claimed it would be sold. In June 1864 one Archibald Shaw, aged about 25, was suspected of stealing a pair of blue blankets from Thomas Casey of Springwood. He was then supposed to have gone to Castlereagh. This could have been Shaw Snr, as the age and year would fit for his early days of marriage to Catherine and was the year Archie Jnr was born.



Catherine died at North Springwood on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1916, her death brought on by an accident which hampered her recovery from a previous heart attack, which was followed by pneumonia about a week before she died. She is buried in Springwood Cemetery. She was living with her daughter Annie Shaw Gosling at Fern Hill, North Springwood, and had lived at Springwood for the previous 12 years. Therefore, it may have been about 1904 when Archibald Snr died and Catherine left/sold the farm, moving to Springwood. There is an Archibald Shaw buried at Katoomba Cemetery in 1914, but he was a day-old baby. No further details can be found about the death and burial of Archibald Joseph Shaw Snr, at this stage.

Daughter Annie had married Stephen Gosling in 1895 and they were living at North Springwood. Stephen was the gardener at St Columba's and had lived at Springwood for 22 years. Two of Catherine's other sons went to Western Australia. William married and lived at Castlereagh. Annie died in 1935, and William died in 1939.

A sandstone seat/grotto on the farm was recorded during NPWS site surveys with the name *C Shaw* carved on it. It is unknown whether this still exists.



*Catherine Shaw at Springwood*



*Annie Gosling (Shaw) Springwood*

Young Archibald Joseph Shaw married Mary Hannah (formerly Shaw) and they lived at North Springwood near the intersection of Singles Ridge Road and Hawkesbury Road, once the family sold the farm in about 1938. Earlier, in 1894, it was reported in the Nepean Times that the Shaw's were building a cottage near the North Springwood Post Office. Archie and Mary had seven children, born between 1890 and 1908, according to his Death Certificate. Interestingly Archie's Death Certificate states that they did not marry until about 1911!

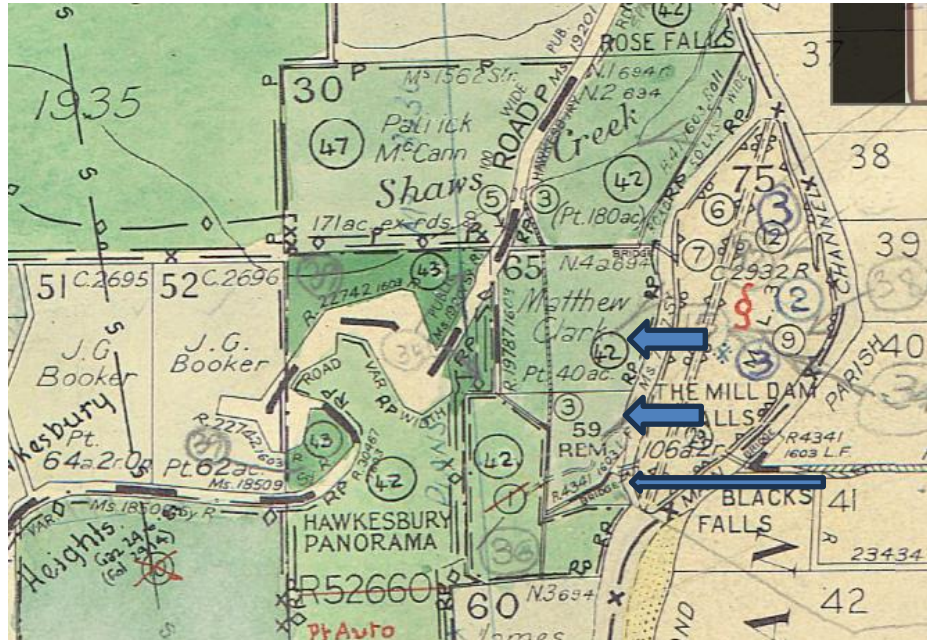
While the family lived on the farm, Archie was involved in various activities in the area, and was a carpenter and orchardist. He also dabbled in mining, and sometimes carried out works for the Castlereagh Municipal Council.

In 1892 Shaw obtained a gold lease with Rayner and Olsen, for a 20 acre block some 10 miles from Springwood, on advice from an old timer who believed he saw evidence of gold bearing rock below the Hawkesbury lookout. A shaft was dug about 40 ft down, but nothing came of this.

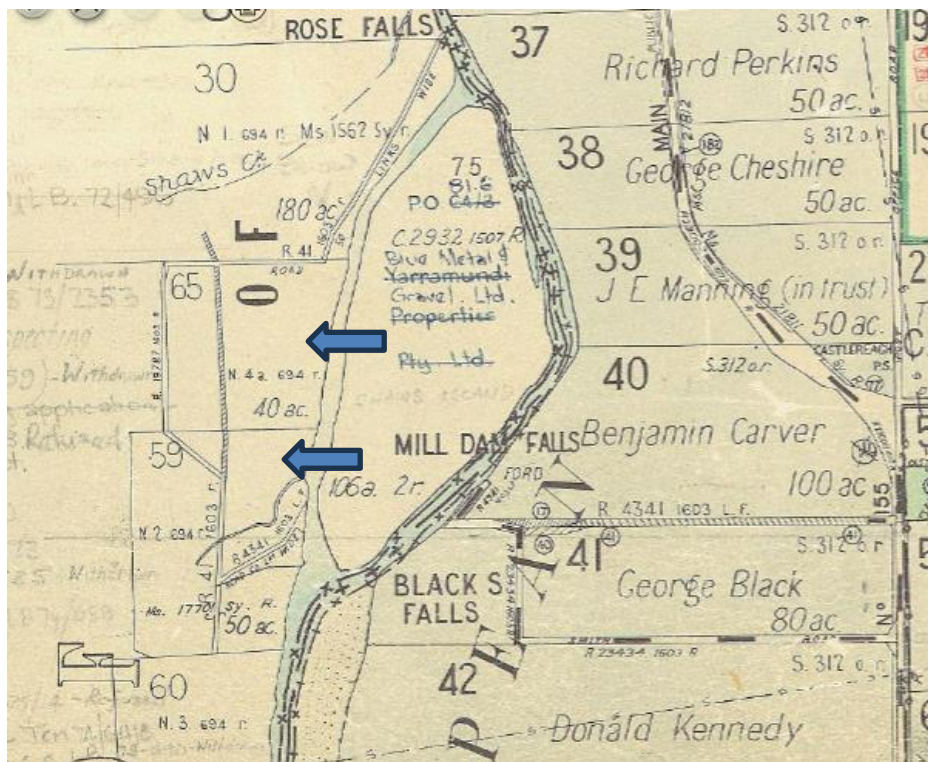
In 1893 Archie Joseph Shaw was elected to fill the seventh position on the North Springwood Progress Association. In 1895, together with Thomas Richard Lucas and

James Baxter Jnr, he was appointed a trustee of the Recreation Ground at Yellow Rock, Springwood, some 270 acres.

The land immediately to the north of Clark's (Shaw's) land on the river was originally owned by Patrick McCann. In 1896 three head of cattle supposedly stolen by John McCann were found on Archie Shaw's selection, up on Shaw's Ridge. It does not appear as though Shaw was implicated in any way.



Extract Parish of Nepean Regional Charting Map 1969 showing Clarke's land, Portions 65 and 59, and the bridge



Extract Parish of Castlereagh Regional Charting Map 1950 showing Clarke's land



Shaw was paid by the Castlereagh Municipal Council for works such as road upgrades and culvert construction during 1898.

In 1926 Archie Shaw also worked for the Emu and Prospect Gravel Co (formerly Yarramundi *[sic]* Properties P/L) on Shaw's Island, and that year he sustained had an eye injury from a nail he was driving into a wall, which caused permanent damage. He was not awarded compensation until 1928. The Parish map of Nepean shows a bridge across this neck of the River from Shaw's land Portion 65 onto Shaw's Island which would have served the quarry.

Archie Shaw Jnr died of tuberculosis in March 1934 at Randwick, aged 70. He is buried at Rookwood General Cemetery.



*Perkins house 2016*

The Shaw property was first sold in about 1838. It changed hands a number of times between 1883 and 1925. From 1926 the Perkins family owned the land, and built the house which still existed in 2016, as a holiday house. The method of construction reflected the building styles of the 1920s and 1930s, but may have been built around the ruins of the original Shaw house.

From 1954 to 1986 the land belonged to commercial developers and gravel extractors, who also managed a picnic ground on the site. It was transferred to NPWS in 1992 for incorporation into a reserve, which subsequently occurred in 2000. At that point the house was rented out.

Various assessments were carried out across the site by consultants for NPWS in 2006 which noted the house (in poor condition), outbuildings and plantings. One conclusion reached was that the non-indigenous value of the site did not relate to the individual elements (the house, stables, shed, sandstone seat/grotto) but to the site as a whole. A sandstone ruin was noted in the south of the park, origin unknown.

Although recommendations by the Draft Management Plan included retaining these features, the residence is now gone (adaptive reuse could not be justified) and the stable ruin remains but is overgrown and hard to interpret. A large new picnic shelter and amenities have now been established on the site.

It is interesting to note that the Parish maps for Nepean and Castlereagh show a number of names which have cropped in the above narrative – Perkins, Kennedy, Lucas, but not Shaw. These families are obviously local, going back to settlement, showing that the Shaw family moved into an existing North Springwood and Castlereagh community, assimilating and interacting with those communities.





*Storage of sandstone blocks from Perkins house by NPWS 2025  
Yellomundee Regional Park*

The Editor's research into the later histories of the communities of North Springwood (Winmalee), Castlereagh and Hawkesbury Heights finds that they do not mention the Shaw family. But they have obviously left their mark in the landscape!!!!

### **First Nations**

The Yellomundee Regional Park includes significant Indigenous sites, relevant to the occupation of the place before the coming of the settlers. The 2022 Gazettal of extensions to the Park states:

*The value for which the Aboriginal Place is of special significance to Aboriginal culture includes, but is not limited to, the area having special significance to the Darug and other local Aboriginal peoples. The western part of Shaws Creek Aboriginal Place lies within Yellomundee Regional Park, a narrow strip of land bordering the Nepean River before it joins the Grose River and becomes the Hawkesbury River. The eastern part of Shaws Creek Aboriginal Place is Shaws Island, a contact point between the west and east banks of the Nepean River.*

*Shaws Creek Aboriginal Place sits within the traditional lands of the Boorooberongal clan of the Darug. Traditional rock engravings link across its landscape and depict different art formations connecting to artefacts which are all physical and spiritual links to ancestors. It was once a traditional meeting place for the Aboriginal people of Western Sydney. The area contains numerous artefacts, rock art caves, engravings and tool workshops.*

The history of the locality is also significant as:

*.....it was also a site of confrontment, tragedy and loss as the Aboriginal camps at Shaws Creek suffered the vengeance of retaliation during the many conflicts that raged along the Hawkesbury and Nepean Rivers in the early days of settlement.*

In particular it was the site of a conflict that occurred in 1805 between armed settlers and Aboriginal people. In 2019 Jim Low wrote about the event. He explained that the conflict was waged on the western side of the Nepean/Hawkesbury River, in the foothills of the Blue Mountains, probably in the vicinity of Shaw's Creek and was reported upon extensively by the Sydney Gazette.

The buildup of tensions relating to dispossession of the Aboriginal people from their lands, and disrespect for native customs, food sources and property had been building for some time. The number of deaths resulting from this attack on the Aboriginal

people, led by Andrew Thompson, was never accurately recorded. It could possibly have been higher than the 'seven or eight' that were initially reported. There was really no way of knowing whether any of the Aboriginal people who were attacked had been responsible for any violence on the settler farmers. No casualties seem to have been suffered by Thompson's party. What happened to the wounded and the dead is unknown. Many now consider the attack in the foothills around Shaw's Creek in April 1805 as nothing less than a massacre.

The Cultural Walk encompasses the tracks and areas where early First Nations peoples suffered loss and endured tragedy, but now provides a spiritual meeting place for the Darug people to educate children and young people about traditional practices.

*Patsy Moppett*

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

### ***The Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth carvings on the marked tree at Katoomba***

In 1963, the Sesquicentenary of the crossing of the Blue Mountains by Blaxland Lawson and Wentworth, a ceremony was held at the "marked tree" just west of Katoomba. As part of the ceremony a blaze of BLW was made on a tree 50M to the west of the original tree (see photos below).

An examination of the same tree in 2025 shows no sign of the blaze. Phil Dixon – arborist – advises that *Eucalyptus Deanei* will cover up damage to the bark in just 10 years.

*Phil Hammon*







*Above photos by Souvenir Snapshots 1963*



*The same tree today*



*Above photos by Phil Hammon 13<sup>th</sup> July 2025*



**PLEASE NOTE THE CLOSING DATE FOR ARTICLES AND NOTIFICATIONS TO THE EDITOR FOR THE JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2026 ISSUE OF HERITAGE IS FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025**

***Community events & updates***

***Volunteering at Historic Hartley***

National Parks and Wildlife Service at the Hartley Historic Site have set up the *Hartley Historic Heritage Collection Volunteer Program*. This will focus on collection care and cataloguing of the Hartley Historic Site Moveable Heritage Collection.



There are plans for future volunteering opportunities including visitor information services, tour guiding, heritage garden care, and bush regeneration. Volunteers will also be needed for a site open day in planning for April or May 2026 coinciding with the National Trust Heritage Festival.

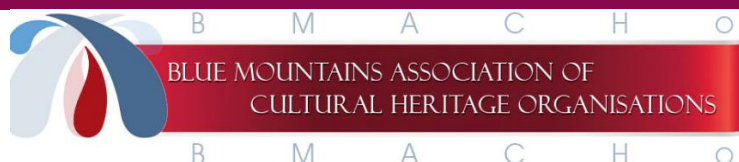
If you are interested in becoming a Hartley Historic Village volunteer you can register with NPWS.

For more information or assistance with registration, please call Luke Donnelley on 02 6355 2117 or visit the Hartley Visitor Centre. You can also email Luke at:

[Luke.Donnelley@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Luke.Donnelley@environment.nsw.gov.au).

Hartley Historic Site Office, 51 Old Great Western Highway, Hartley  
Blue Mountains Branch, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

***Bendigo Bank Sponsorship for BMACHO***



BMACHO would like to publicly thank the Bendigo Bank Katoomba and Upper Mountains Branch for the sponsorship provided to enable our website to be redesigned, something that had not happened since 2015. We are grateful that the Branch understands the significance of heritage and history of the Blue Mountains. Readers can access the *Heritage* Newsletters and the Blue Mountains History Journals on our website <https://bluemountainsheritage.com.au>

Jan Koperberg

### ***Small Arms Factory Museum, Lithgow***

Although the Museum has been closed for some twelve months now due to the break-in and the theft of display weapons, the Museum volunteers are now able to reopen to the public, albeit focussing on different aspects of the facility.

Staff are now able to offer tours of the Museum by appointment. Displays are not as elaborate or all-encompassing as previously presented, but visitors are still able to appreciate historical information and artifacts relating to SAF heritage.

Once more volunteers are secured, the Museum will seek to open three days a week, moving on with a view to full reopening. Although the firearms are not presently part of the exhibition, the family histories and machine room remain as attractions. The history of the site is possibly more important than the firearms themselves. The Museum declares:

*.... the firearms were the product, but the story of the people that worked there, the job they did, the innovation that happened there.... is just as important. This Museum history .... is also the story of Australia's industrialisation from the early 1900s through to today.*



*Machine room*

Other initiatives for the site will include a National firearms history centre in a new separate building on the site, canteen services, and regular talks by relevant speakers. Negotiations between Museum volunteers and site landowners Thales are ongoing in regard to security upgrades and future firearm displays.

You can visit by appointment within their set opening hours - Tuesdays & Thursdays (10 am - 4 pm) and Saturdays (10 am - 2 pm). Each visit is a "Supporters Admission", keeping the Museum alive while they rebuild and work towards bringing back the full experience. By visiting now, you're not just seeing what they currently offer - you're helping ensure the Museum has a future.

*Lithgow Mercury 6<sup>th</sup> September 2025*

*For tours by appointment simply give them a call to make arrangements, or simply turn up at the door and call from there, at 69 Methven Street, Lithgow.*

*For inquiries phone: 02 6351 4452*

## **Blayney Shire Pioneer Register**

Blayney Shire Local & Family History Group Inc. are preparing a 2nd edition of the *Blayney Shire Pioneer Register: Settlement to Federation* (last published in 2010).



Previous contributors are invited to review and update past entries, and NEW submissions are most welcome. Pioneers to include are those who:

- Were born before Federation (1901).
- Lived, worked, or raised families in the Blayney Shire.

Genealogical details, brief stories of settlers or residents, children or descendants who were born or lived in the area during the given period will be appreciated. This may cover immigration records, occupations, places of residence and events.

Family history has no bounds, so although the group spells out the above criteria for entry, this does not mean there are not Blue Mountains connections. So, if you or your family have associations with the villages and regions of the Blayney Shire, your contributions would add to what is already a tremendous resource in the first edition, compiled by Rhonda Jones, Betty Beasley and Joan Barry and issued some 15 years ago.

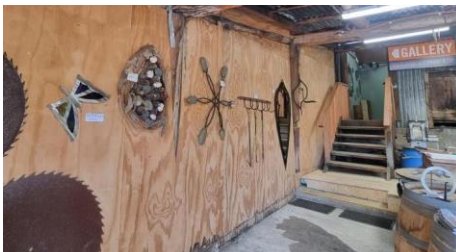
Contributions should be submitted by 30<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

For more information and for the contribution form, please visit:

[www.blayneylfh.org/pioneer-register](http://www.blayneylfh.org/pioneer-register) or email [blayneyhistory@yahoo.com.au](mailto:blayneyhistory@yahoo.com.au)

## **Talisman Gallery, Hartley Historic Site**

When visiting the Hartley Historic Site it is easy to miss this amazing attraction. A narrow lane between the Visitor Information Centre and Ivy Cottage takes you up the hill to a small parking area outside this unique blacksmithing workshop and showroom. Once operated by Ron Fitzpatrick, it is now owned and operated by Josh Lawson, who awaits your visit!!



Josh can show you how it is all done, providing access to the workshop to view him crafting metal artwork in the heat of the forge.

The workshop and showroom are located in the old woolshed building up on the hill, where views are provided across the village and over to the rock cluster of Kew-Y-Ahn.



With Christmas just around the corner, an opportunity should not be missed to meet Josh, and to browse and shop amongst the metalwork, glasswork and jewellery displays in the showroom.

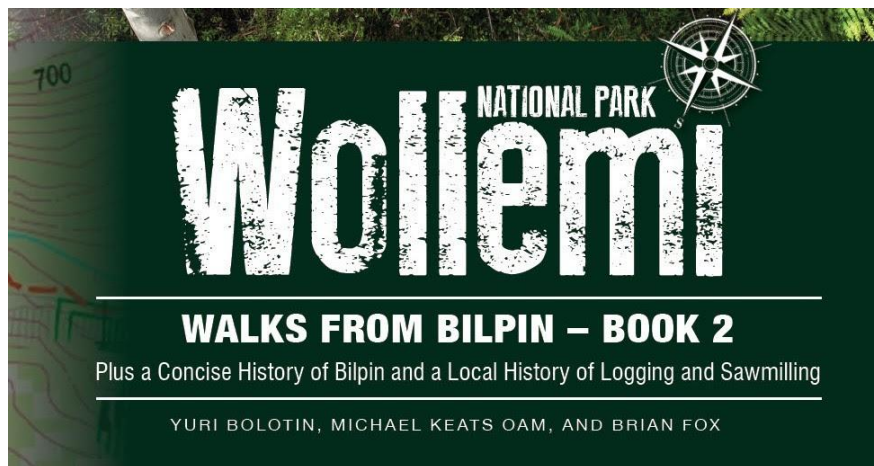
Open Friday to Sunday, 10am to 3pm. Closed Christmas Day.

Contact NPWS at [hartley@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hartley@environment.nsw.gov.au) or phone on Ph 02 6355 2117 for more information.

### **Book Launch: Wollemi National Park: Walks from Bilpin - Book 2**

By Michael KeatsOAM, Yuri Bolotin, Brian Fox

The second book in the series on Wollemi National Park is set to be launched at the end of November. The first book was successfully issued earlier this year and this latest book promises to be even better, illustrated with many maps and colour photographs.



The authors have taken on not only the best bushwalks around Bilpin, but also a concise history of Bilpin and of logging and sawmilling in the area.

*They explain .... Over years of exploration of the area, we discovered 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.*

This Bilpin History and Nature Celebration Event will include talks and tales, storytelling and walks.

The launch will be held at the Bilpin District Hall, Bells Line of Road, Bilpin on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 2.30pm for afternoon tea and 3-5pm for the launch.

Places at the Bilpin District Hall are limited, so you must RSVP by sending an email to [yuri@bigci.org](mailto:yuri@bigci.org) to reserve your spot.

Further details about the book and its availability can be obtained from Yuri Botolin [yuri@bigci.org](mailto:yuri@bigci.org) or the Explorers' website [www.bushexplorers.com.au](http://www.bushexplorers.com.au)

### **Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society**

The Society are holding their 27th Annual General Meeting on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2025 in the Mount Wilson Village Hall from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Matters to be considered include correspondence, the President's report and the financial report, an update on the Turkish Bathhouse Museum situation and other

general business, including fundraising events held this year. They will also address the digitizing of the Society's archive.



The main agenda will be followed by guest speaker Michael Duffy. Michael is a well known author, journalist and former broadcaster. Michael recently published a series of crime fiction books set in the Blue Mountains. The most recent book is entitled '*Death in the Gardens*' and is set in the Everglades gardens at Leura. The Society would welcome attendees at the coming meeting, both members and friends, as would any initiatives that can be offered on *saving the museum*, event ideas, fundraising, historical research, together with the Society generally and its future.

Please advise President Michael Reynolds of your attendance at:

[malcolmreynolds1961@gmail.com](mailto:malcolmreynolds1961@gmail.com) or [historicalsociety@mtwilson.com.au](mailto:historicalsociety@mtwilson.com.au)

## **Annual General Meetings**

### **Mt Victoria & District Historical Society**

Meeting held 25<sup>th</sup> October 2025

- President: Jack Thompson
- Vice-President: Jill Sillar
- Secretary: Brian Roby
- Treasurer: Steve Tusler

Committee: Kay Graham, Roy Bennett, Tim Jones, Margaret Gough, Bob Guntrip, Paul Gray and Trudi Cooper

## **Remembrance Day**

In 1918, Australia made a promise never to forget the service and sacrifice of the thousands of Australians who enlisted and those who fell. For over 100 years, we have kept this promise, and we remember them still.

Remembrance Day was originally called Armistice Day, when two minutes of silence was observed for the first time at 11am on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1919 to remember those who had fallen.

After World War II, the Australian Government agreed to the United Kingdom's proposal to rename Armistice Day, and it became *Remembrance Day*, to commemorate and remember those who were killed in both World Wars. On this day, we remember the loss of Australian lives from all theatres of war and conflict.



Every year at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, millions around the world pause in silence to remember the sacrifices many have made so we can enjoy life today.

*Lest We Forget – Remember to Remember*



## **BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.**

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

**Email:** [committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au](mailto:committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au) or [j.koperberg@bigpond.com](mailto:j.koperberg@bigpond.com)

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

**ABN:** 53 994 839 952

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

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

One of the functions 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.

**Registered Charity:** BMACHO is a not-for-profit incorporated association and has been added to the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission (ACNC) charity register.

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

**Membership:** The following organisations are members of BMACHO: Blue Mountain Education & Research Trust; Blue Mountains City Library; Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc; Blue Mountains Historical Society; Bygone Beautys Treasured Teapot Museum and Tearooms; City of Lithgow Mining Museum Inc; Colo Shire Family History Group; Everglades Historic House & Gardens; Friends of the Paragon Inc; Glenbrook & District Historical Society Inc; Hartley Historic Site, NPWS NSW; Hawkesbury Historical Society Inc; Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society Inc; Lithgow & District Family History Society Inc; Lithgow – Eskbank House Museum and Lithgow Regional Library – Learning Centre; Mt Victoria & District Historical Society Inc; Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society Inc (including Turkish Bath Museum); National Trust of Australia (NSW) – Blue Mountains Branch; National Trust of Australia (NSW) – Lithgow Branch; Nepean District Historical Society Inc; Norman Lindsay Gallery and Museum; Penrith RSL Military Museum; Scenic World Blue Mountains Limited; Springwood Historical Society Inc; Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum; Woodford Academy Management Committee; Zig Zag Railway Co-op Ltd.

The following are individual members: Fiona Burn, Philip Hammon, Dr Wayne Hanley, Gay Hendriksen, Adrian Howie, Ian Milliss, Patsy Moppett, Keith Painter, Dr Peter Rickwood, and Dr Robert Strange.

**Committee:** The management committee for 2025-2026 (from March 2025) is: Patsy Moppett (President and Newsletter Editor); Rod Stowe (Vice President); Philip Hammon (Treasurer and Membership Secretary); Jan Koperberg (Secretary/ Public Officer); Fiona Burn, Dick Morony 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.