

# *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*

## **Bilpin – Norwood - Bilpin**

The first journey along the route which we now know as Bells Line of Road was undertaken by Archibald Bell in 1823, which established a second access across the Blue Mountains from the Sydney basin. In particular, Bell reported the richness of the soil in the area in the vicinity of Bilpin. The community which then settled itself in this locality enabled the establishment of a thriving fruit growing industry and then a timber industry, and trade through to Richmond along the Bells Line of Road primarily consisted of such agricultural and timber products. Access was always an issue due to the condition of the roads, which were not high on the priority list for the Colo Shire Council.

### **Beginnings at Bilpin**

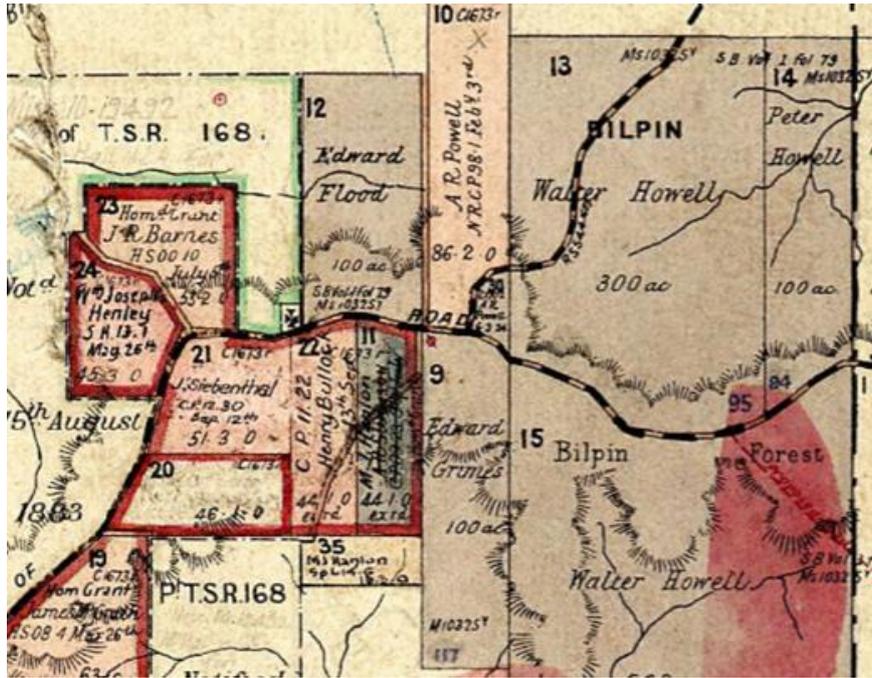
Bilpin was the site of a government sponsored soldiers' settlement scheme established in the 1830s, for the benefit of returning Veterans' Regiments of the Peninsular and Napoleonic Wars. The British Government had the well-intentioned forethought that when the Royal Veteran Companies were formed in 1825 for service in New South Wales, they were to be encouraged to settle there, becoming .... *very useful settlers*. The Companies were disbanded a few years later, and grants of land in varying sizes were given to the men in different parts of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land. Yet the scheme to settle these men in the Australian colonies was a failure. Particular blame can be laid at the feet of Governor Darling, especially as his brothers-in-law were the officers in charge of both the Royal Veteran Companies and the Royal Staff Corps, and he kept them busy with civil duties, so failed to provide leadership to the rank and file who, in turn, performed disastrously in their various roles. After discharge, most soldiers failed to take up their land grants, or forfeited them through non-residence. Much as they appreciated the reward for effort for their military endeavours, many of them were not farmers.

Some ten farms were surveyed by surveyor James Byrn Richards in 1829. He advised his office that he was encamped at a locality called ‘*Bilpin*’. The name appears to be of Aboriginal origin, possibly meaning ‘mountain’. Historians appear to have different ideas about whether Bilpin is on Dharug or Darkinjung Aboriginal land. However, it's known that the Dharug people lived on the plains, and the Darkinjung people lived in the mountains. Another angle is that Archibald Bell had an Aboriginal guide named Pulpin, who was active in 1816, and his name could also be linked to how Bilpin got its name. A further survey created more farm lots of varying sizes over the next few years.

### **Land grants - Parish of Bilpin**

<b>Landholder</b>	<b>Portion number</b>	<b>Acreage</b>
James Francis	1	100
William Heath	2	100
Thomas King	3	100
John Duffy	4	100
Richard Dawes	5	100
Thomas Rodwell	6	100
E M Horden	7	100
William Prestnell	8	100
Edward Grimes	9	100
Arthur R Powell	10	86
MJ Hanlon (A Slingsby)	11	44
Edward Flood	12	100
Walter Howell	13	300
Peter Howell	14	100
Walter Howell	15	500
GMC Bowen	16	2,560
Thomas Sherwood	17	50
TLJ Masterman	18	73
John McKeown (DB Horsfield)	19	63
ME Collett	20	46
GR Gunn (Richard Upton , John Siebenthal)	21	51
Henry Bullock (John Fox)	22	44
Amelia Anderson)(Alfred Hartley, JR Barnes)	23	53
WJ Henley (Edward Martin	24	45
Charles P Scrivener	25	250

Many of the farms created were unable to be developed due to distance from markets, and many soldiers simply walked off their blocks. However, some persevered. One such farm was Portion 9 in the Parish of Bilpin. It was granted to soldier Edward Grimes in 1830. He appears to have retained the land until about 1850. He must have made a go of it as when Gillman Norwood purchased the farm in 1894 an orchard was already well established. Other soldier recipients included Sgt William Taylor, Privates John Elliott, James Cameron, Thomas Kirby, James Ives, Richard Dawes, Thomas King, Thomas Rodwell, John Duffy, James Francis and William Heath. Of these, the last six plus Edward Grimes are shown on the Parish map of Bilpin. It can only be assumed that the other five moved away immediately they attained their grants.



Portion 9 Parish of Bilpin 1908 – Norwood orchard

As late as 1871 the locality was still known as Bilpin, according to reporting in the Australian Town and Country Journal. It was noted at the time that the town survey had included a travelling stock reserve on south side of road at Norwood, even though local farmers had no stock! It was a standard element in village survey at the time.

#### **Enter - Gillman Norwood**

Gillman Norwood was born in about 1849, in Dunmanway, Cork, Ireland, to William John and Eliza, nee Seymour. [William's death certificate lists his wife as Eliza Seymour, whereas Gillman's death certificate lists his mother as Maria Seymour]. William and Eliza had married in 1843 in Ireland, and Gillman came to Tasmania with his parents in about 1854. They had spent a year in Victoria and then settled at Launceston. Gillman was the second eldest of 12 children.

His father, William John Norwood, was an alderman on the Launceston council from 1862-1864, with his occupation being a bookseller and stationer. In 1864 he was ...appointed a Justice of the Peace in and for the town of Launceston during his continuances in office as an alderman of that town. In 1868 he was the Assistant Secretary to the Launceston Railway Company.

In 1871 William remarried to Martha Anne Hill in Launceston, with whom he had 3 more children. During the next few years, they moved to New South Wales, as William died in Bathurst in 1889 aged 71 years, of chronic cystitis and arthritis, from which he had been unwell for some 15 years.

Their son Gillman spent 15 years in Tasmania before coming to Victoria where he spent another 16 years. In 1897 Gillman (also referred to in the records as Gilman, Giltinan) Norwood married Frances Elizabeth Brain in Melbourne, at age 26. She was the daughter of Thomas Brain and Sarah Hall, born in Launceston in 1848. Gillman and Frances had 3 daughters, all born in Victoria, Elvina (1877), Clara (b. & d. 1878) and Isabel (1878).

Later in 1897 Gillman and Elizabeth Norwood moved to New South Wales and bought the property at Bilpin previously granted to Edward Grimes, where there was already an

orchard established. He named the property *Norwood*. The origin of the name is a little bizarre. The Norwoods came from Launceston, where today there is a suburb named Norwood, which was not established until 1960. It was named for a property called *Norwood* in outer Launceston, the residence of AG Genders, who was born in Norwood, South Australia. Genders had moved to Launceston with his parents as a youth. The house *Norwood* in Launceston was built in 1904 by JM Haeke for Mr Genders. However, this only partly explains the choice of the name of the farm for Gillman, as although he came from Launceston, his surname was Norwood. So, did he name his orchard for his own nomenclature, or for the house in Launceston? And did he or his father have any associations with Mr Genders?

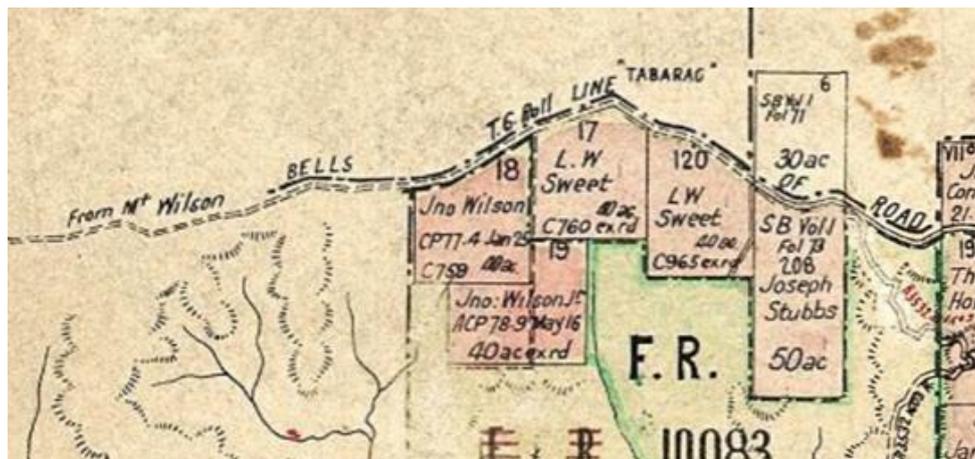
Gillman explained his Bilpin enterprise in later years. In giving evidence as a witness in the deputation in 1913 to State Parliament regarding the construction of a railway from Richmond to Kurrajong, Gillman stated that he had been at Bilpin 16 years, on 100 acres, 30 of which was cleared. He advised that he grew fruit and vegetables, and that apples had been established in the district long before his arrival.

In 1898 the Reverend Dr Cameron was travelling up from Kurrajong through Bilpin and noted the orchard of Peter Powell on the right, and the Norwood orchard on the left, opposite Mountain Lagoon turnoff.

### **Village of Norwood**

In October 1899 a non-official receiving office was established at Bilpin, but it was named Norwood, as Gillman Norwood became the first office keeper, receiving the usual allowance of five pounds per annum. Norwood (Bilpin) is about 17 miles distant from Richmond, and 7 miles from Kurrajong Heights. However, the name Bilpin never completely disappeared at this point as it was still sometimes referred to as such in 1904. For the time being, Norwood became the generally accepted name.

Another name associated with the locality has been applied in error. One report suggested that ..... *a post office has lately been opened at Tabaragg, now known as Norwood, named after a gentleman of that name residing there....*



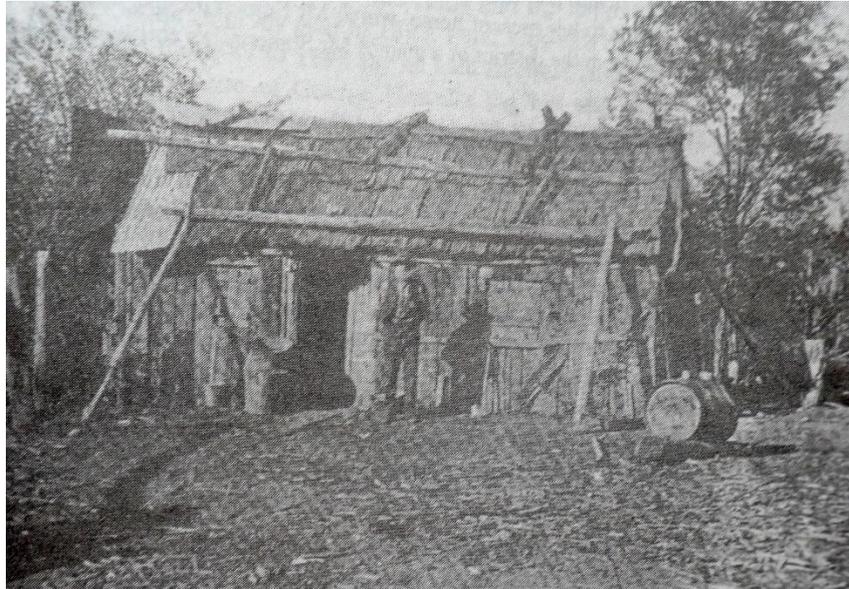
*Parish of Wheeny – Tabarag*

*Tabaragg* (Tabarag) was in fact at the topmost part of Kurrajong Heights, owned by Peter Powell and was located some 4km along the Bell's Line of Road towards Kurrajong from Norwood (Bilpin), as noted on the Parish map for Wheeny. Powell was a large landholder in the district, who advertised for ..... *under-scrubbing and fencing done, improvements made.*

Gillman Norwood settled into the community and had a thriving orchard concern ... *the best and most profitable*. In 1903 he was appointed a magistrate for Kurrajong heights.

### **A community develops**

A number of names associated with early settlement, once the original farms settled into more secure ownership, included A Slingsby of 'Fernlea'; A McKeown; Miss Powell, a local lady teacher, Owen McDonald, GA Richards, John Siebenthal and J Fox.



*An early Norwood dwelling: Town and Country Journal 1910*

Bushfires presented a major threat to access, with serious outbreaks in December 1909. Reports stated that the fires were at 'Bilpin', not Norwood. At the same time, they noted that Norwood Post Office had had a narrow escape from the burn. In 1910 the Norwood Post Office was being run by John Siebenthal, local landowner of Portion 21. So, the names Bilpin and Norwood were often existing side by side.

The critical issue which confronted the community from day one was getting their produce to market. Early conveyance via horse and cart, then by the early motorized transports proved challenging due to the state of the roads. Colo Shire Council certainly had its hands full dealing with the upkeep with limited funding and resources. Colo Shire staff set out to inspect the roads in 1908 with a view to repairs, especially the way down to Mountain Lagoon, which was accessed via a former bullock track branching off the main road at Norwood. This route was barely more than a goat track, but complaints came in regularly such as those from Mr Bowman in 1909. Subsequently Lewis Stuart was employed to carry out works on the Norwood-Mountain Lagoon Road following the Council meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> April. In 1912 a complaint was received by CSC from John Anderson, who had a timber mill at Mt Irvine, regarding the condition of the road from Norwood to Mt Irvine. Rain and fallen trees had created havoc following recent storms.

### **Coming of the railway**

In 1901 Gillman Norwood and J Williamson comprised part of a deputation to the State government to discuss a bridge at North Richmond and a proposed railway from Richmond up to Kurrajong. This matter lay on the table for many years, with most thought being that it was an impossible proposal and could not be justified. However, the local producers were adamant that these matters were serious. In July 1910 a

railway route was proposed and surveyed from Richmond station, supposedly to serve rural producers of Kurrajong and its surrounds. This included those 'sturdy settlers beyond the Heights at Norwood and the Mountain Lagoon'.

In providing justification for the railway, an article by *Unicorn* in the Town and Country Journal in July 1910 suggested that there were at least 20 families in the Norwood district and 14 non-resident landowners. The article discussed the various rural industries in the district which would benefit from such a scheme, including orchards, vegetable growing and timber. It mentioned improvement of roads for tourists as well, and the benefits this would have for pleasure-seekers to enjoy the magnificent landscape. Later that month *Unicorn* discussed apple growing, and the growing of peas and beans, and wattle bark stripping, sheep farming. In doing so he mentions landowners in the Norwood locality. He went on to say ..... 'Advanced Norwood' is of the go-ahead order. They have a post office which receives and dispatches mails three times a week, but they also have another building ..... a school of arts, which is also a substantial Government school.

In 1913 a presentation was made to Parliament on the railway. Gillman Norwood and Peter Powell, orchardists of Norwood, were received as witnesses, amongst others, and evidence was received from each. The hearing stated:

*The settlement of Norwood, 19 miles distant from the existing line, is very much inconvenienced on account of the difficulty of conveying fruit to market, and effecting the return journey within two days. The cost of carriage amounts to 1s. per case, and the handicap is severely felt, in spite of the prolific nature of the soil for citrus and other fruits. It is estimated that in this portion of the area within the influence of the proposed line, 10 acres would be sufficient for the maintenance of a home. Most of the holdings in the neighbourhood of Norwood are 300 acres in extent, but the greater portion is at present uncleared.*

Finally, in 1926 a standard gauge railway line was opened from Kurrajong to Richmond, but by 1952 the lines were all gone. The farmers had achieved their goal, and the railway had served them and the surrounding district through until improvements in road construction and maintenance, along with more reliable and secure transport, were achieved.

Gillman's position on the railway deputation was notable, as his father had had a similar interest in the Railway Company at Launceston.

### **Community facilities**

October 1909 saw the opening of the Norwood School of Arts by Brinsley Hall MLA. Rain heralded the event, but some 300 people were not deterred, and a festive day and evening were held, with a day of races of all kinds, with a concert and dance in the evening, which carried on until dawn the next day.

The building included temporary refreshment rooms and ladies dressing rooms, a well-stocked library and a reading room. It was located a quarter of a mile past the Norwood Post Office on the other side of the road and served also as a church and school at various times. It was a wooden building with an iron roof, constructed of local timber from Mt Irvine. It measured 28ft by 28ft with an 8ft porch in front. Mr A Slingsby drew up the plans and did the architectural work. In 1949 the building was still used as Norwood/Bilpin school, which was replaced by new school in 1950-51. In 1950 the old School of Arts building was advertised for disposal, sold off and dismantled.



*School of Arts 1900 and 1950*

From 1863 a public school was operating in Bilpin, and in 1899 it became a part time school as Norwood public school with Kingsdale. A provisional school operated as Bilpin public school from 1927 to 1941, and from 1945 to 1952. From 1952 the town has had the formal Bilpin Public School.

#### **A name change**

In 1914 the State addressed the situation of the name of the town. In 1914 a Gazette heralded that Norwood, the area around the Cut Rock, would be rechristened and would become Bilpin. Confusion had triggered the move, due to confusion with postal addresses for Norwood, South Australia. Subsequently, Norwood post office was re-named Bilpin on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1914. By 1915 the Richmond and Windsor Gazette was referring to the village as ..... *Bilpin, (late Norwood)*.

In July 1917 the polling place was changed from Norwood to Bilpin by the State Electoral Office, but the Commonwealth Division of Lawson still listed the post office as Norwood (post office, Bilpin). Finally in November 1918 the polling place names changes for good:

*Division of Macquarie – Norwood to be Bilpin*

#### **Norwood no more**

In 1915 the Richmond and Windsor Gazette reported that the Norwood orchard was purchased by George A Richards, as Gillman Norwood was leaving the district. However, by this time Gillman was 67 years of age, and the orchard work was probably catching up. Gillman Norwood died in November 1919 at 'Lochiel', Kurrajong Heights, aged 70, of pulmonary tuberculosis after an illness of three months. He was buried in the Church of England cemetery at Richmond. His death certificate advised that he was a retired orchardist, and the informant was Mrs Walker, wife of Thomas Walker, owner of *Lochiel House*.

In June 1938 Frances Elizabeth Norwood, widow of Gillman Norwood, aged 90, passed away. She too was buried at Richmond.

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

## **Index**

Bilpin-Norwood-Bilpin	1
Editorial	8
Walter Liberty Vernon: NSW Government Architect	9
Phillip Schaeffer – Victim of Circumstance	13
Vale Dame Marie Roslyn Bashir	20
National Trust Australian Heritage Festival	21
Centre for Volunteering	22
Not-for-profit and small business insurance	22
National Trust of Australia (NSW) Collections on Tour	23
Annual General Meetings	24



## **From the Editor**

In this issue we present a wide range of topics for review and consideration. Continuing in the theme of colonial architects, we present a brief account of Walter Liberty Vernon, Government architect from 1890 to 1911. He too had an outstanding career, although he managed to steer clear of internal politics in the Department of Public Works, unlike Barnet and Mortimer. These three were the longest serving Government architects and deserve to be remembered for their contributions to the built environment across the State. BMACHO now looks forward to our History Conference in 2027, the theme of which will be architects and architecture of the Blue Mountains.

It is unusual for a location to change its name midstream, but that is what occurred at Bilpin, on the Bells Line of Road. Originally named as Bilpin, it became Norwood for some 20 years in the early 1900s, before reverting to Bilpin as we know it today. Reasons for the changes could be a matter for speculation, but in its own right, Norwood was well known for its agricultural and timber industries.

Most colonial histories tend to concentrate on the success stories, including those of emancipist settlers who battled the government and the climate to make good on their land grants. Many land grants were also made to the soldiers, marines and seamen who were drawn to New South Wales due to circumstances around their various employments. Most of these military and naval men, however, were simply not cut out for farming, and disposed of their grants as soon as possible. A few made good, but this was not always the case. Phillip Schaeffer was one. His is an unfortunate and sad story. We note the passing of one of the most beloved patrons of heritage in Dame Marie Bashir. She rarely missed an opportunity to head out into the community to share special events and occasions with as many people as she could. She will be sorely missed.

Opportunities exist again to train up your organisation in the acquisition and management of volunteers. Continuing professional development is a key to the efficient and effective operation of our heritage organisations, and the Centre for Volunteering is offering free workshop and webinars. See later pages in this Newsletter.

The National Trust's Australian Heritage Festival is looming large again in April/May 2026, so get your organisation entered for an event, and keep an eye out for programs in which to become involved.

Through the highs and lows of heritage management and appreciation in our community, we believe a greater awareness is out there, with potential to nurture heritage preservation and conservation in our region. We are constantly made aware through social media of developments which might threaten that stability, so if you are that way inclined, the chance to become involved in our heritage future is an opportunity not to be missed.

### **Walter Liberty Vernon: NSW Government Architect**

Walter Vernon was an English architect who migrated to New South Wales where he continued his profession as the NSW government architect. He was born in 1846 at High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, eldest son to Robert Vernon and Margaret Liberty. Robert was a banker's clerk. In 1862 Walter was articled to a London architect, while continuing his studies. He then practiced as an architect in London, where he married Margaret Anne Jones in 1870 at Newport.

On completing his articles, Vernon worked for Habershon & Pite and from 1869 took charge of their branch office in Cardiff, Wales. In that practice, work included a number of churches. Subsequently, the work which he undertook in granite and basalt in Australia reflect the work he would have done in Wales.

Suffering from bronchial asthma, he and his family spent a year recuperating in Malta. A member of the Surveyors' Institution from March 1880, he opened an office in Great George Street, London, while retaining a practice in Hastings.

During the early 1880s Vernon went on sketching trips through Holland, Belgium and Germany to widen his horizons. During this time, he and a friend became 'participants' in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-71, which was to bring France to complete defeat and political dissension, through the siege of Paris. Vernon and one of his cousins set off for France in January 1871 with a shipload of provisions to relieve the suffering in the French capital. Just as they arrived a truce was declared.

#### **To Australia**

Walter Vernon suffered from bronchial asthma and medical advice saw him emigrate to Australia for his health. The family sailed in the *Ballaarat*, reaching Sydney on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1883.

In Sydney, Vernon leased land at Neutral Bay, where he designed his own home, *Penshurst*, in 1884. Vernon continued to reside there and the nearby villa *St Helens*, until 1895 when the family moved to Normanhurst. There he designed and built another house, *Wendover*, in 1895. He bought adjoining land where he designed and built several villas.

Father of two daughters Margaret Evelyn (1871) and Olive Maude (1874), and two sons Hugh Venables (1877) and Geoffrey Hampden (1882). Hugh studied architecture and Geoffrey studied medicine. Olive and the sons all had military careers.



1895



1905



1910

*Walter Liberty Vernon*

### **An architectural career**

Vernon set up a private practice in Sydney and then worked with William Wardell from 1884 to 1889. He assisted with works already in progress, designed buildings and supervised Wardell's work. From 1 October 1883 that year until February 1889 he was in partnership with Wardell.

In public life, Vernon was an alderman on East St Leonard's Municipal Council in 1885–90, serving a single term as Mayor from 1887 to 1888. He then held a position as alderman on the Municipality of North Sydney Council from 1890 to 1891 but did not seek re-election.

However, he was elected a fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1885, he joined the (Royal) Art Society of New South Wales in 1884, joined the (Sir) John Sulman's Palladian Club and the Institute of Architects of New South Wales in 1887, and the Sydney Architectural Association in 1891.

In 1890 Vernon was appointed government architect in the new branch of the Department of Public Works which had been created to allow private architects to compete for the design of all public buildings estimated to cost over £5000. The government architect was to supervise construction, with a commission paid to the selected architect.

Vernon struggled for a time as his staff numbers were reduced significantly, and he had to work with the remnants of James Barnet's office. Then the activities of his office were boosted in 1894 when extra funding was committed as a way of creating relief work during the Depression of the 1890s.

Vernon employed a range of architectural styles, but all reflected his early training and English influences, such as Queen Anne, Federation Arts and Crafts style, Federation Free Style. He favoured the Federation style, and Jenolan Caves House in the Blue Mountains was a good example.

Thereafter, he created a diverse range of designs included the stately Registrar General's Building, the original David Jones department store, Long Bay Prison and Mitchell Library on Macquarie Street. He also built numerous suburban post offices, courthouses and fire stations, his works often displaying his love of yellow sandstone. Other examples of his work included fire stations at Randwick, Darlinghurst and Pyrmont, the former police station in Taylor Square, Darlinghurst, and the former police station in Surry Hills. Notable large public buildings in a more Classic style included the Art Gallery of New South Wales, the Mitchell Library, Central railway station and Newcastle Court House. Additions to buildings can be attributed to him also, including

Balranald Post Office; Armidale Post Office; the former Premier's Office, Sydney; Lands Department Building, Sydney.

Examples of his work display the variety of styles he worked with, as follows:



*David Jones' store 1887*



*NSW Lands Department 1876  
Design by Barnet, supervised by Vernon*



*Jenolan Caves House 1879*



*Mt Victoria Post Office 1896*

Unlike his predecessor James Barnet, Vernon saw major city public buildings as .....*monuments to Art*, large in scale and finely wrought in stone. Suburban buildings took on the scale and character of their surroundings, and country buildings were designed with cross-ventilation, shady verandahs and sheltered courtyards. In running the branch, Vernon insisted on the highest quality of design, the use of improved materials and construction methods, and the application of business-like procedures.

He retired as New South Wales Government Architect in 1911 and returned to private practice, establishing a partnership with Howard Joseland, also born in England. In 1911, Vernon judged the competition entries for Parliament House in Wellington, New Zealand, after the original buildings were destroyed in a fire in 1907.



*Katoomba Courthouse 1897*



*Long Bay Detention Centre 1909*

### **The nation's capital**

From 1901 Vernon had executed many site studies for the future Federal capital and later maintained that his most important duty had been his part in contributing to the eventual choice of Canberra. He was appointed to the Federal Capital Advisory Board in 1909. Believing that Australians possessed insufficient knowledge of town planning to be able to do justice to the great possibilities, he advocated a world-wide competition.

### **Military service**

Walter Liberty Vernon was also a military veteran. In the UK, Vernon had served in the 4th Battalion, Oxfordshire Light Infantry.

Once in Australia he served in the Australian Army from 1885 to 1910 in the New South Wales Lancers, 2nd Light Horse Brigade. He joined the Lancers in January 1885 and was commissioned in March the next year. He was promoted to Captain in 1893, he



*Walter Liberty Vernon at Penshurst 1886, New South Wales Lancers, 2nd Light Horse Brigade*

commanded the New South Wales Lancers contingent at Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee (1897) and was promoted Major in 1899. As Lieutenant Colonel, Vernon commanded the 1st Australian Light Horse Regiment (New South Wales Lancers) from 1903 to 1907 and, as Colonel, the 2nd Light Horse Brigade from 1907 to 1910. He was awarded the Volunteer Officers' Decoration in 1905.

### **End of an era**

Walter Liberty Vernon passed away on 17<sup>th</sup> January 1914 aged 67 in Darlinghurst, of septicemia and gangrene after the amputation of his leg and was buried in the Gore Hill Cemetery. Seven weeks prior to his death he had entered hospital for treatment of the leg he had injured while testing a patent fire escape as Government architect. The leg had to be amputated, but as Vernon refused an anesthetic, complications set in which led to his death. He was survived by his wife, two sons and two daughters.

The Prime Minister of Australia, Joseph Cook, in remembering Vernon said:

*.... "It is with most profound regret.... that I saw that Colonel Vernon had gone over to the great majority. His was a most useful and valuable life.... It was Christopher Wren to whom it was said 'if you could see his monument, look around'. So, with Colonel Vernon. The public will see his monuments for a long time – perhaps for all time – in the city and in the country".*

To perpetuate his memory, the Lord Mayor of Sydney convened a public meeting, which raised funds to establish the *Colonel Vernon Scholarship in Architecture and Town Planning*.

Vernon's funeral at St James' Church, Sydney on 19<sup>th</sup> January was attended by .... *a large and representative gathering of mourners.*

His wife Margaret Anne died in 1919. His daughter Margaret Evelyn died unmarried at Balmain in 1964 aged 93.

It is worthwhile taking a moment to mention his other children, who were each courageous in their own right. Olive Maude was a career military nurse who died in India in 1925 whilst matron of the Wellington Military Hospital. Hugh Venables died at Warrawee in 1935. He was mentioned in dispatches in 1915 at Gallipoli. Geoffrey Hampton died in 1946 in Papua, after being a medic on the Kokoda Trail.

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

### **Phillip Schaeffer – Victim of Circumstance**

As with the examination of many settlements within the early colony of New South Wales, we have seen before how land grants and land ownership were something to be sought with vigour. Convicts received land grants on their emancipation, free settlers came and lined up for the opportunity to have what they could not have in their mother country. Even soldiers who decided that they wished to remain in the colony at the end of their military term, chose to seek land ownership. In addition, soldiers were allocated land grants upon their return from serving in fields of conflict in Europe, as we saw in this Newsletter's earlier article regarding *Norwood* (page 1).

The stories of success and failure are too numerous to relate in this publication. Many of these landholders were never suited to farming and their land was soon passed on to more capable occupants. Also, the Australian climate played havoc with their management practices, fires, floods, droughts, on a scale never experienced back home. It was a challenging experience, even for the successful.

One such settler that we will look into now is a German of Parramatta. Spelling of both his Christian name and surname varies in the records, so this article will address him as Phillip Schaeffer.

### **The beginnings of an industry**

Soon after arrival in New South Wales in 1788, Governor Arthur Phillip began to establish a settlement at what is now Parramatta. Farming the land had not been

successful nearer Sydney, and better soils were to be had further west. The first vines arrived in Australia with Governor Phillip on board one of the ships of the First Fleet. These vines were first planted out at Farm Cove - the site of the present Sydney Botanical Gardens. Unfortunately, the vines did not bear as expected, and were soon transplanted to the new location at Parramatta.

In 1789, at Governor Phillip's suggestion, the British government recruited nine farmers and called upon others to be superintendents of convicts. Phillip had requested trained vineyard workers be sent from London, but none were, and he had to make use of those who arrived on the Second Fleet.

The colony also sought to further develop tobacco as an industry and Phillip encouraged its development whenever possible, as supplies from Virginia, US, ceased when Virginia was no longer a British colony.

### **Immigration**

Phillip Schaeffer was born in Frankfurt in the German state of Hesse in about 1750 and served in America as a hired soldier for the British Army in the American War of Independence, in a corps of Jaegers (light infantry man) as a lieutenant, with his Hesse-Hanau contingent being sent to North America. Therefore, he had some English connections. Although he was never a farmer as such, his father owned a small estate on the banks of the Rhine on which he grew up, and Phillip had always been fond of looking at the operations and assisting with the work, especially in the vineyard. Phillip was one of many Hessian auxiliary riflemen hired by the British to bolster numbers during the American War of independence, and Schaeffer's passage to Australia was most likely the result of a relationship formed with a British official during his time of service.

His daughter Elizabeth was born about 1779-80, and some time between 1780 and 1783 Schaeffer returned to England with Elizabeth and his wife, which is possibly when he was recruited. This first wife died before he migrated in 1789, possibly in England. It would appear, since the daughter became fluent in English, that Elizabeth's mother was either English or a Loyalist American. Schaeffer's English was notoriously poor and in the next few years Elizabeth seems to have translated for him.

So, Schaeffer arrived in Australia with the Second Fleet as a convict supervisor to advise them on agricultural practices. However, his voyage was anything but uneventful! In 1789 they sailed from England in H.M.S. *Guardian*, Phillip being accompanied by ten year old Elizabeth.

The *Guardian* was a store ship travelling with the fleet, although she did carry some 25 convicts as well, who had been especially selected for trade skills needed in the colony. However, the *Guardian* became the first convict ship to be wrecked while carrying convicts to New South Wales. She sailed from Spithead on 12<sup>th</sup> September 1789, under Lt Edward Riou, passengers including Phillip and Elizabeth, but was wrecked off the Cape of Good Hope when she struck an iceberg. For two days, with her pumps working desperately, Riou struggled to save his ship. On the twenty-sixth, having jettisoned half of his cargo, Riou put 60 of his crew into lifeboats. Of these only fifteen survived. Phillip and Elizabeth Schaeffer remained on board the stricken ship which was taken in tow by a passing American ship and brought back to Cape Town. There, on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1790, Elizabeth, Schaeffer and the other convict superintendents were ordered on board the *Lady Juliana* of the Second Fleet, which had arrived in Table Bay.

Elizabeth was the only female on the frigate. It would appear she was a mature looking ten year old, as the *Guardian's* master thought she was fourteen years old. Captain Riou would have known, since she evidently dined with her father at the captain's table, recorded her age as ten in his log.



*Wrecking of the Guardian 1790  
(Aquatint engraving by Robert Dodd, NSW State Library)*

Despite considerable loss of life, Schaeffer and his daughter, four other superintendents and most of the convicts were taken aboard the *Lady Juliana* and reached Sydney on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1790. The *Guardian* convicts had conducted themselves so well during the crisis, that although four were lost at sea, fourteen of the remainder received conditional pardons upon arrival in Sydney, upon recommendation by Riou. Captain Riou himself was hailed as a hero for his bravery. Songs and poems were written about the *Guardian* disaster, which was a sensational story in Europe.



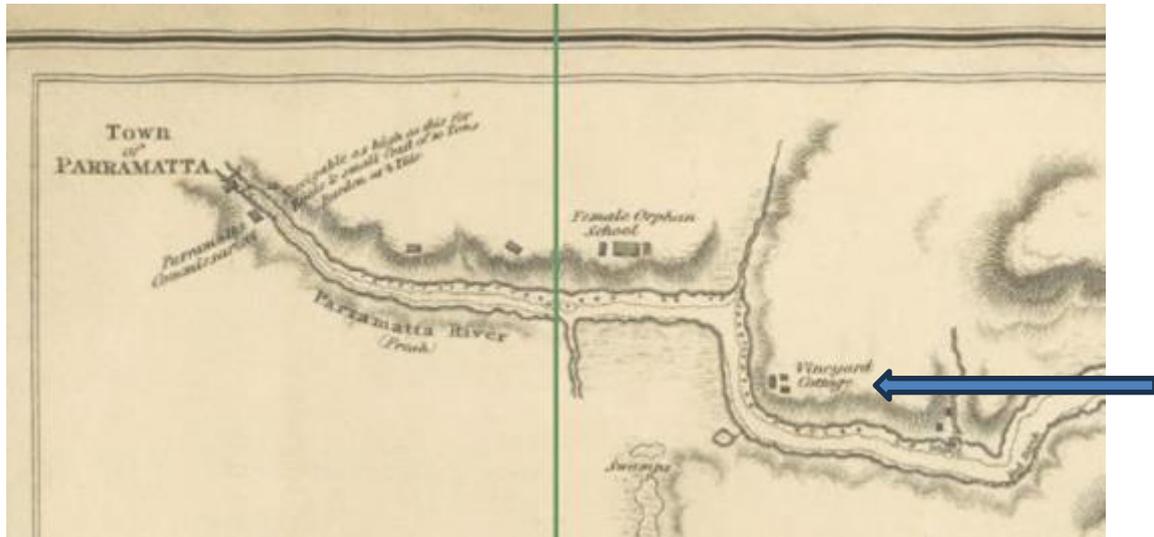
*Memorial plaque at The Rocks 1990*

Employed as an overseer of convicts it was soon apparent that Schaeffer's lack of English made it difficult for him to undertake the task he had been employed to manage. He advised Governor Phillip that "... he was not calculated for the employment for which he came out, but as a settler will be a useful man". It was hoped

that Schaeffer might establish vineyards and winemaking for the expanding colony, so Schaeffer became the first free settler granted land in New South Wales.

### The Vineyard

On 30<sup>th</sup> March 1791 Schaeffer received a land grant from Governor Phillip, along with two seamen from the ship *Sirius*, William Reid and Robert Webb. Convict James Ruse received his grant the same day. Here Schaeffer erected a roomy, bark-covered hut to protect his motherless daughter from the harsh surroundings, and barracks for the four



Extract of survey by Surveyor Lt John Roe 1822 showing The Vineyard cottage

convicts assigned to him. This grant was 140 acres (57 ha) on the northern bank of the Parramatta River at Rydalmere, which he named *The Vineyard*. He was provided with a hut, tools, seed grain and two sows, and part of the land was cleared for him. He and his daughter and the four male convicts were rationed from the public store for eighteen months and received any medical assistance they required. The farm grew wheat, maize, oranges, tobacco and two acres of grapes, and was the first privately owned vineyard in the new colony.



Schaeffer land grant deed 1792

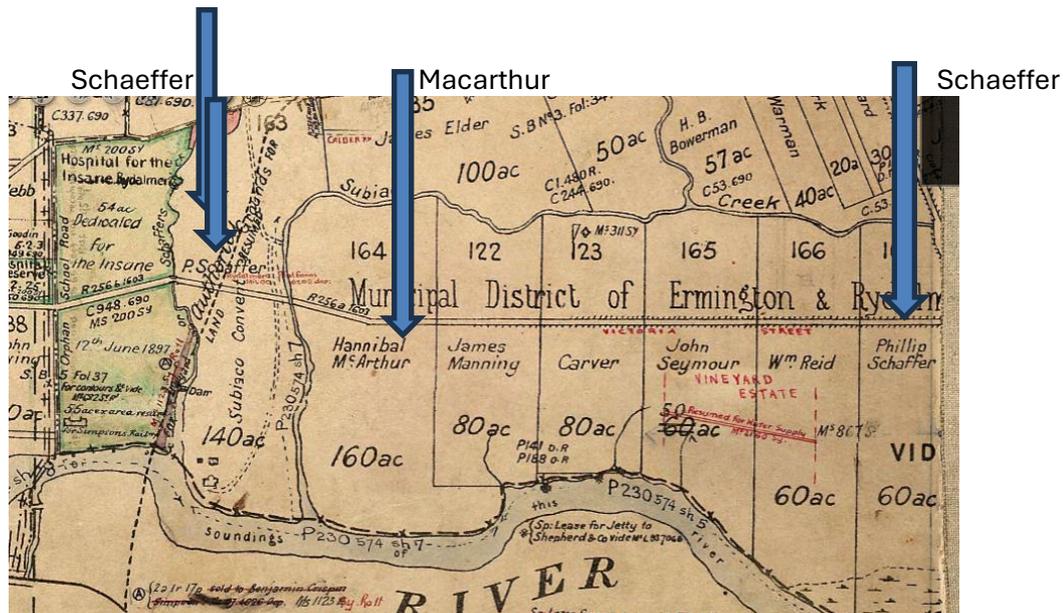


The Vineyard Cottage 1798

Schaeffer's land bounded Vineyard Creek to the west and Schaffers Creek, later known as Subiaco Creek, to the east. A rough track utilised by settlers of 'The Ponds' near

today's Ponds Creek, developed to the north of Schaeffer's land. This later became known as 'The High Road', today's Kissing Point Road.

In December Watkin Tench visited the farm and reported that ..... *his vines, 900 in number, are flourishing, and will, he supposes, bear fruit next year.* It was estimated that Schaeffer would produce about ninety gallons of wine within about two years. Schaeffer advised Tench that the land comprised a middling soil, had too dry a spring, and suffered from the ground not being sufficiently pulverized before the seed was put in it. The tobacco and vines were doing well. On one of the boundaries of his land was plenty of water. At this stage a very good brick house was nearing completion for his use, and in the meantime, he lived in the small hut, which had been built for him on his settling here. At the expiration of the 18 month period he was bound to support himself, and the four convicts were to be withdrawn unless he was then able to support them on his own.



Extract from Parish of Field of Mars, showing Schaeffer's land adjacent to Hannibal Macarthur's Subiaco

Whilst spending time with Schaeffer, Tench noted that .....

*Mr Schaeffer is a man of industry and respect-able character. He came out to the country as a superintendent of convicts, at a salary of forty pounds per annum; and brought with him a daughter of twelve years old [sic]..... in walking along, he more than once shook his head, and made some mortifying observations on the soil of his present domain, compared with the banks of his native stream. He assured me that (exclusive of the sacrifice of his salary) he has expended more than forty pounds, in advancing his ground to a state in which I saw it. Of the probability of success in his undertaking, he spoke with moderation and good sense. Sometimes he said he had almost despaired, and had often balanced about relinquishing it; but had often been checked by recollecting, that hardly any difficulty can arise, which vigour and perseverance will not overcome. I asked him what was the tenure on which he held his estate. He offered to shew the written document, saying, that it was exactly the same as Ruse's. I therefore declined to trouble him, and took my leave, with wishes for his success and prosperity.*

The deeds to the land were finally signed on 22 February 1792, although the grant had been made earlier. By 1795 the vines were productive, and he had produced ninety

gallons of wine in addition to table grapes. His enterprise did not continue to thrive, however. It is likely that the same blight that affected vines at the government farms at the time also caused problems for Schaeffer, as did his lack of experience in vine management.

**Schaeffer moves on**

Eventually Schaeffer sold *The Vineyard* in 1797 to Captain Henry Waterhouse and moved to a lease of 60 acres at the Field of Mars. Waterhouse, however, didn't enjoy colonial life. His duties require him to return to England and after some negotiation he did so in 1800. In 1803 *The Vineyard* was leased to William Cox. In 1813 Hannibal Hawkins Macarthur purchased *The Vineyard*, which adjoined his property, *Subiaco*.



*The Vineyard 1834, Annie Macarthur*



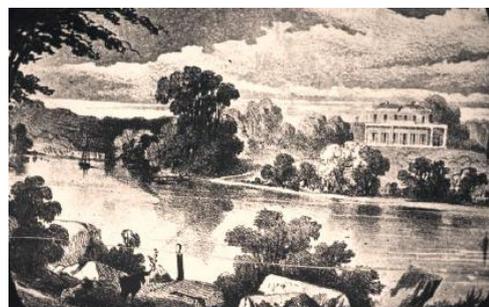
*Subiaco 1847*

In 1811 Phillip Schaeffer had married Margaret McKinnon on 14<sup>th</sup> October at St John's, Paramatta. Phillip was 61, and Margaret was 64. Margaret was a former convict from Skye, born about 1747, who had arrived in the *Royal Admiral* in 1792. She had been convicted of arson, setting fire to a neighbour's house in a fit of jealousy, and at her trial at Inverness in September 1787, was sentenced for 7 years.

In 1814 Schaeffer and his wife were still farming at Parramatta. He was a recipient of government cattle and in 1816 was granted fifty acres (20 ha) at Narrabeen. In November 1825 he and Margaret were granted a hundred acres (40 ha) '..... for their natural lives'. However, ..... old age, poverty and intemperance ..... caused Schaeffer to sell his land piecemeal. He sold his land for thirty gallons of rum and died a pauper. His fortunes gradually declined until he died in poverty in 1828 as an inmate of the Benevolent Asylum. Although the sources suggest Margaret was also in the Asylum at this time, she shows up in the 1828 census as aged 81 and living with a Robert McIntosh, at Pittwater. It appears she had abandoned Phillip Schaeffer when he was committed.



*Subiaco*



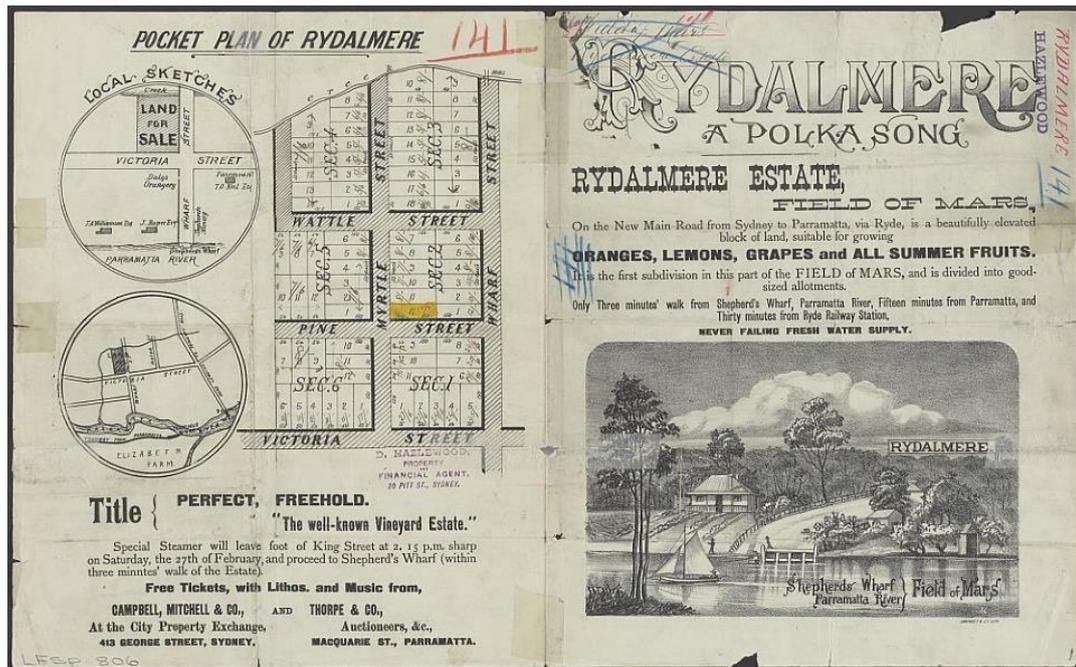
*Subiaco*

Hannibal Macarthur went bankrupt and in 1848 *The Vineyard* was purchased by John Bede Polding for the Benedictine nuns as their first priory in Australia. In March 1851 the

property also became a boarding school for girls and was renamed *Subiaco*. Many years later in 1957 the nuns sold the property to a Benedictine order of monks and three years later the monks sold the property for industrial purposes to Rheem.

An article in *The Cumberland Argus* dated 11<sup>th</sup> January 1961 relates:

*A stone Cottage, built before 1800 by the original grantee, a superintendent of convicts with the First [sic] Fleet still stands in the grounds at Subiaco. The cottage is regarded as one of the oldest domestic buildings still standing in Australia. These buildings were destroyed in 1961 when the company Rheem bought and redeveloped the area as an industrial site.*



Early subdivision of The Vineyard c. 1957

## Conclusion

Phillip Schaeffer's time as the proprietor of the first privately owned vineyard in the colony lasted just six years but was enough to secure his place in Australia's history books. It is a sad story of frustration and desperation for a man who was industrious and capable, limited by circumstances, climate and his own cultural background in an alien land and in an unfamiliar occupation. He certainly made a go of it but did not live to benefit from his own industry. Governor Phillip certainly tried to support him, admitting that the British government had made bad decisions in regard to personnel and convicts who were sent out to develop agriculture in the colony. Schaeffer was caught up in this process. He knew he struggled with the language but told the Governor he knew he could be ..... *useful*. He did not simply walk away; he had a go for a number of years before admitting defeat and succumbing to the dreaded drink. One question remained in the story, that being, what ever happened to Elizabeth? Though Schaeffer told Tench he came to Sydney with his daughter, Elizabeth appears to have been no longer with him then, as Phillip Schaeffer does not mention her in his conversation with Tench. It is the last known record of her in the sources to date.

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

## **Vale Dame Marie Roslyn Bashir AD CVO**

Although most of us did not know Dame Marie personally, she was a familiar figure in many communities when it came to recognition of local events, openings, presentations and functions across the State for many years.



Dame Marie passed away recently at age 95 following a distinguished career. She was born in 1930 in Narrandera of Lebanese descent and trained as a psychiatrist at the University of Sydney. She married Nicholas Shehadie on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1957 at St Philip's Church, Sydney, and became the Lady Mayoress of Sydney from 1973 to 1975, when her husband was Lord Mayor. In 1974 she was named as Mother of the Year by the New South Wales Child Care Committee and the National Council of Women in the state. Nicholas and Marie had three children. Nicholas passed away in 2018. Dame Marie was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1988 for service to medicine. In 2001, she was made a Companion of the Order of Australia, and in 2006, was made Commander of The Royal Victorian Order. Marie Roslyn Bashir became the first female Governor of NSW in 2001, the 37th Governor of New South Wales, from March 2001 to October 2014, the first woman to serve in this role and the second longest serving, exceeded only by Sir Roden Cutler. These and her many other achievements have been recognised through obituaries across the country. In our greater Blue Mountains region, she was a familiar face almost annually, taking a particular interest in history and heritage, and enjoying the time she could spend at grass roots level, especially amongst school children, regardless of the weather! Some of the events she attended over the years are listed as follows:

- November 2010 - 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World Heritage Listing of the Greater Blue Mountains National Parks. She launched the celebrations in the rain, no shelter, amongst many school children.
- April 2011 - visit to *Glenroy*, Hartley as guest of the National Trust of Australia to celebrate the restoration and State Heritage Listing of the 1831 grave of Eliza Rodd.
- May 2012 – attended *The Red Admiral* – an exhibition of Patrick White's years at Mt Wilson by Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society.
- October 2012 - Katoomba Rotary 75th anniversary dinner.
- February 2013 – officially opened a new walk detailing the story of *The Gully* in Katoomba.

- 2014 – unveiling of the Charles Darwin Memorial at Lake Wallace, Wallerawang, surrounded by many school children.
- April 2015 - celebration of the bicentenary of the first Christian religious service held west of the Blue Mountains at *Glenroy*, Hartley on a blustery day.
- August 2016 – officially opened the major extensions and renovations of Bygone Beautys at Leura.
- March 2018 – unveiled a plaque at the Macquarie homestead restoration celebration at O’Connell, near Bathurst.

Dame Marie combined professional excellence with a profound humanity in both the medical world and in administration. She leaves behind a legacy defined by service, compassion, and an unwavering belief in the power of knowledge to improve lives.

**PLEASE NOTE THE CLOSING DATE FOR ARTICLES AND NOTIFICATIONS TO THE EDITOR FOR THE MAY-JUNE 2026 ISSUE OF *HERITAGE* IS MONDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026**

***Community events & updates***

***National Trust Australian Heritage Festival***

Event registrations for the 2026 Australian Heritage Festival are now open! Whether you are a gallery, library, museum, historical society, local council, tourism operator, university, hospitality provider, or a passionate individual, the National Trust invites you to register your event(s) as part of the festivities this April and May.

The Australian Heritage Festival is the nation’s largest community-driven celebration of culture and history. Celebrated across cities and regions nationwide for more than 45 years, the Festival invites communities to connect with Australia’s diverse stories, offering immersive experiences that bring heritage to life for thousands of people each year.

This year’s theme *Change* invites all Australians to uncover the ways history continues to shape us - and how we are shaping history in return.



As an event host, you’ll receive a free website listing and benefit from their dedicated marketing and PR campaigns, which last year reached millions of people from right across the state.

**Key dates: Registration closes on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026. The Festival commences on 18<sup>th</sup> April and continues through until 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026.**

Hear the stories of the unusual and unknown. From tours to talks, workshops, fairs, performances, demonstrations and more, there’s something for curious minds of all ages.

*For further information and registration contact the National Trust website:*

[www.australianheritagefestival.org.au](http://www.australianheritagefestival.org.au)

## **Centre for Volunteering**

Are you struggling to know how to manage your volunteers, or simply want to update your practices and train staff in management skills?

The Centre for Volunteering's latest professional development opportunities include free workshops/webinars, nationally recognised training and the Continuing Professional Development Program.



Some of the webinar sessions include:

- Top legal issues when managing volunteers – 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 (free for volunteer leaders in NSW)
- Becoming an Inclusive Volunteer Involving Organisation – 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026 (free)
- Duty of Care - Ensuring Volunteer Safety & Wellbeing – 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026 (free)
- Getting your message across: effective communication for volunteer leaders – 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026 (free)
- Beyond a Thank You: Innovative Volunteer Recognition & Retention – 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026 (free)

### **Conference 2026**

In addition, join them for the **2026 Volunteering NSW State Conference on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2026**, in Sydney. This is the premier gathering for volunteer leaders and practitioners across NSW, which brings the sector together to share ideas, strengthen leadership capability and explore best practice shaping the future of volunteering. **Early bird tickets** are now available, offering a discounted rate for those who secure their place early. You can also contribute to the program by responding to the *Call for Abstracts*. For enquiries, contact: [conference@volunteering.com.au](mailto:conference@volunteering.com.au)

### **And more .....**

- Want to learn more about volunteering or volunteer management? Whether you're just getting started or looking to strengthen your leadership skills, explore the *Voices of Volunteering podcasts*, featuring expert insights and inspiring stories you can enjoy anytime, anywhere.
- The Centre shares regular updates on **grants** for community projects, not-for-profits, volunteer groups, and volunteer managers. Each year, millions of dollars in local and government grants are awarded to not-for-profit organisations, community groups, and clubs. **Learn how to write a grant application** and stand out!

*For further information and bookings:*

*The Centre for Volunteering, Level 3, 40 Gloucester Street, The Rocks, NSW 2000*

*Web: [www.volunteering.com.au](http://www.volunteering.com.au)*

## **Not-for-profit and small business insurance**

This certainly a hot topic which never goes away. Susan Templeman, Federal Member for Macquarie, acknowledges that availability and affordability of insurance for businesses and not-for-profit organisations is one of the pressing issues in our community at the moment, and she advises that a new inquiry by the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services is specifically looking into this matter.

Small businesses and not-for-profit organisations are invited to have their say on the availability, cost and adequacy of insurance products for the work of this Inquiry:

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Joint/Corporations\\_and\\_Financial\\_Services/SmallBusinessInsurance](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Corporations_and_Financial_Services/SmallBusinessInsurance)

The terms of reference are as follows:

1. Access to insurance coverage which meets contemporary business needs, including public liability, professional indemnity, cyber threats, and business interruption;
2. The affordability and availability of these insurance products across different regions and sectors, including regional and remote Australia and high-risk industries;
3. The adequacy of the current regulatory framework in addressing modern insurance challenges; and
4. Any related matters.

A submission can be just a few sentences or a specific example of the challenges, and can be downloaded at the abovementioned link.

- **Submissions close:** 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026
- **Reporting date:** 27<sup>th</sup> October 2026

Please always feel free to share with Susan any personal experiences of your insurance challenges: [susan@templeman.mp](mailto:susan@templeman.mp)

## **National Trust of Australia (NSW) Collections on Tour**

An upcoming Everglades' event, *A Brighter Past: A Short History of Colour in NSW Homes* is scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026.



What colours did people use in their homes in the past? We often think that historical home interiors were dull and dusty – was this the reality? Discover the story of colour in the home in NSW and how attitudes towards living with colour are always changing. An engaging Q & A session will follow each presentation.

After the event, all guests are invited to explore the historic surrounds and learn more about Everglades.

Tickets include an illustrated presentation by Museums of History NSW curators, and an opportunity to view original pieces from the collection including wallpaper, trade catalogues, ties, architectural pattern books and more.

The event is free for National Trust members. It will be held at The Everglades Gallery, 37 Everglades Avenue, Leura, NSW 2780 on Thursday, 30 April 2026 from 10.30am – 12pm. Details at Eventbrite and bookings are essential.

View more at *Collections on Tour* locations.

*For further information contact:*

*Rachel Steele-Smith, Property Manager, Everglades House & Gardens, PO Box 7175 Leura 2780*

*Phone: (02) 9258 0147*

*w: [www.nationaltrust.org.au/nsw](http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/nsw)*

*e: [rsteele-smith@nationaltrust.com.au](mailto:rsteele-smith@nationaltrust.com.au)*

## **Annual General Meetings**

### **Woodford Academy**

*Meeting held 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026*

- Chair: Kate O'Neill
- Deputy Chair: Beata Geyer
- Secretary: Yvonne Kattell
- Tour co-ordinator: Yvonne Kattell
- Gardens: Margaret Harrison
- Café co-ordinator: Adrienne Richards

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

**Registered office:** 1/19 Stypandra 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, Michele Corin, 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.