

Heritage

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Acknowledgement of Country

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



Lest We Forget

Carl and Emma Liebrand – hard work pays off!

Carl Liebrand and his wife Emma settled on *Oaklands* farm at Hazelbrook in 1897. The property is now identified as being in the vicinity of Luchetti Avenue, off Oaklands Road. Their story is one of hard work which paid off, resulting in a thriving orchard, vegetable gardens and dairy. The residents of Lawson and Hazelbrook benefitted greatly from Carl's produce, and the property became a model dairy farm.

In 1863 Emma Rose Lyon was born in Sydenham, Kent in England. Her father was William John Lyon. In 1887 she came out to Australia where she met and married a young German named Carl Frederick Liebrand in 1891 at Leichardt. Carl was born in 1861 at Feldberg near Mullheim in Germany, where he had studied agriculture for three years. He emigrated to Australia in about 1884, being keen to start out on his own to utilise the skills he had acquired. By 1893 Carl and Emma were still in Sydney where

their son Harold John was born at Paddington. They spent a short time at the Hawkesbury between 1894 and 1895, where Carl spent some time at the Hawkesbury College learning about Australian agriculture, and then came on up to settle in the Blue Mountains. Emma was not well and it was thought the mountain air would be good for her health. Harold was still a toddler and for a time Carl took on the postmaster duties in April 1897 and minded the adjoining shop. He had undertaken his naturalisation in 1894.

In 1895 a Charles Myers was charged in Central Court with attempting to defraud Carl of £1. Carl had advertised for employment and been offered some on payment to Myers of £1 plus half his first week's wages. Myers was committed for trial.

Finally in 1897 Carl bought seven acres of virgin scrubland for eight pounds an acre at the end of a track which became Oaklands Road at Hazelbrook. Apparently, a Chinaman had attempted to farm this area previously. Carl had named the farm *Oaklands*. This was soon expanded to 30 acres. Two years later their daughter Marie was born at Penrith, possibly at the Nepean Cottage Hospital which had opened in 1895.

In 1898 a warrant was issued for a John Brown, charged with assaulting Carl Liebrand at Hazelbrook in October. He disappeared to Sydney and was never charged. Details of the assault were not provided by the Police Gazette.

In 1899 Carl was appointed as one of the trustees of Public Reserve No. 23810, an area set aside for public recreation near his farm.



Carl & Emma c. 1900



Carl, Emma and Marie c. 1905

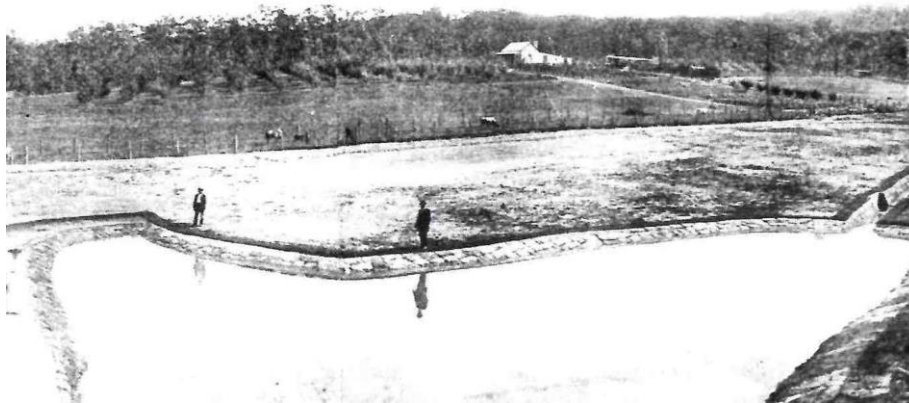
By 1905 Carl had his farm producing and the dairy in operation and was winning prizes at local shows with his produce, including for grapes and watermelons. A visitor to Hazelbrook in March 1905 inquired of the local people about features he might like to see on his way through the town. He had seen a man carrying a pail of milk and asked where the dairy was. He was told it came from ... *the German's farm*. However, the gossip continued

... the German was a terrible man, who led an awful life - worked from daylight to dark, a perfect dog's existence and his poor wife, she worked in the house as hard as he did on his farm. Of course the farm looked well, but was anything worth so much work, would life be worth living under such conditions? Why even a Chinaman had failed where this German had succeeded. Give us white men, not these Germans who didn't know what a fair day's work was - and so on.

On the way to view the farm, the visitor observed the remains of the Chinaman's hut and garden, who apparently was a cook and didn't understand gardening! The visitor

then viewed the German's farm, and immediately compared it favourably with the Hawkesbury College and the Wagga Experimental Farm. When he met Carl he saw *a lithe, active young-looking man with a happy smile in the pink of condition.* When he met Emma he saw a woman in heartiest of health, with a spotless house and a larder full of their own produce.

Disaster struck the family just before Christmas in 1905. They were attending the local bazaar in aid of the Mechanics Institute building, which was held over several days. Emma was attendant at the plain and fancy stall on the Saturday. Attendance was down due to the weather being damp and miserable. However, on the Wednesday night when Emma and Carl were at the bazaar, their four roomed weatherboard house burnt down. Nothing at all was saved beyond the sheds and outhouses. Some men saw the reflection of fire through a heavy mist, and they rushed over in time to save the cow and other sheds containing two carts, four sets of harnesses, valuable farming implements, and about £20 worth of fodder. Fortunately, the house and furniture were insured, but not to their full value. The community joined in offering deep sympathy.



Oaklands Model Farm

In 1907 their son George was born at Springwood. Life was going well once again. The dairy was advertised as a model dairy farm, and he was listed as a dairyman in the Lawson/Hazelbrook area in 1910 and 1911 – the Oaklands Model Dairy.

In 1910 the Blue Mountain Echo reported on the Model Dairy, that using energy and perseverance, combining headworks with manual labour and scientific fertilisation, Carl had converted a bush block into a farm in perfect order, right down to fencing and gates. The communities of Lawson and Hazelbrook were benefiting from his dairy herd and the rich milk was also appreciated at the local Consumptive Home. Carl also provided cabbages, potatoes, turnips and other vegetables for sale. His success was demonstrated by the happy and contented appearance of his family. Carl was always happy to show people around the farm and explain his methods.

Despite the weather in February 1911, the Lawson Horticultural and Industrial Exhibition was held. A number of exhibits were destroyed by the rain. However,

The most striking feature in the four sections was the magnificent non-competitive exhibits of vegetables, fruit and produce by Mr C Liebrand of Oaklands Farm, Hazelbrook, which was a collection that would have done credit to any exhibition in the State, and was an object lesson in the overcoming of adverse conditions by scientific farming.

In June 1911 Carl had a problem with the Council, where Council employees were sourcing soil from his land. At the same time, he requested that Council form an entrance into his property. Council discussed the matter, saying Carl should pay half, and the result was left to the finance committee. The matter of the soil seemed to have been passed over.

However, 1912 saw the Oaklands Model Dairy on the market. The Liebrands had decided to take a well-earned three month holiday and look around at other farming centres until they found another suitable farm on a large scale. They had sought to travel to Dorrigo and a farewell was held at the local public hall for the family.

Carl was reported by the Blue Mountain Echo as being a pioneer farmer, a trustworthy and highly esteemed citizen. He started with one cow and a cultivated patch. The 6 acres enlarged to 30 acres and the one cow increased to be part of a fine pure bred Jersey herd. He said of the Blue Mountains that it had good soils regular seasons and it only needed *industry and close application to ensure success and a comfortable living.*

Carl regularly subscribed to the Agricultural Gazette and recommended its columns to the farming community. The community said they would be sorry to lose *Mr Liebrand and his good wife.*

The Oaklands dairy was bought by Johann W E Steinberger for £1400. Given their similar backgrounds as shown below, he and Carl may have been friends.

It would appear as though the Liebrands were settled at Glen Innes by 1915, with Carl buying the last block in the Kent Park subdivision, an estate established by James Martin back in 1875. This estate became known for its well run and prosperous farms on its fertile soils. Carl once again was able to establish a thriving agricultural operation.

In 1914 their son Harold John had enlisted for WWI in September at Paddington. His Service No was 284. He enlisted as a private in the 6th Light Horse Regiment and set down his occupation at the time as a drover. At the time of enlistment Carl's address was 'Pruma', Wetherill Park, so this was before they went to Glen Innes.

Harold became ill enroute to the front and was hospitalised from Gallipoli to Malta. In October 1915 a telegram was mislaid in regard to Harold's stay in the Malta hospital, which was made much of in the press. However, in November Harold was able to write to his mother from St George's Hospital in St Georges Bay and assure her he was ok and in a *good safe place.* He subsequently served in the Middle East and arrived home in December 1918. He is remembered on the Glen Innes and District Soldiers' Memorial. This must have been a hard time for Carl, being of German descent and his son enlisting to fight for Britain. It is to be hoped that his Australian friends and neighbours acknowledged his contribution to the community as they had at Hazelbrook and that he was not ostracised. In addition, both Carl and Emma would have been concerned for family overseas during the war, both in Great Britain and Germany.

It is a sad note that in 1918 Johann Steinberger died aged 61 at his own hand and his wife and son-in-law continued to run *Oaklands*. He had not been sleeping and had been worried about the war. Did Johann suffer from German racial abuse in Hazelbrook, and was he too worried about family back home?

Johannes Wilhelm Ernst (John) Steinberger had emigrated in 1863 with his parents to Brisbane aboard the ship *La Rochelle*. In 1895 he married Nellie Richards (an English girl) in Queensland. He was naturalized in 1889.

At his inquest it was determined that he took his own life from the effects of a pistol bullet wound in the skull, self inflicted whilst suffering from melancholia, the results of insomnia....and had been under medical attention for some years for depression and melancholia.

The search party found him in a waterhole in a nearby creek. He left a wife, two sons and two daughters. Nellie Steinberger moved to build a house in Oaklands Road at this time. She later died in Wentworth Falls in 1973 aged 99.

On a happier note, in 1920 Carl's daughter Marie married Joseph Woods at Sutherland. Harold married Jemima Ann Cramb at Grenfell in 1922, and in 1931 George married Grace Josephine Carroll in Cessnock. Their children had spread their wings!

In 1922 Carl and Emma appear to have been back to Sydney and were farming at Caringbah. An item in the Glen Innes Examiner in 1924 followed them south and reported on an article in a recent issue of 'Poultry', that Carl Liebrand was again producing outstanding quality fruit, vegetables (potatoes, cabbages and sweet potatoes) and lucerne, and was operating ... *one of the finest black Orpington poultry farms in New South Wales*. Once again, his infrastructure was faultless, his chicken houses were actually lined against the weather, and his watering systems perfect, all with his scientific methodology.

The article also made the following observation:

.... Men of other nationalities than ours do things on the average much better than the Australian. They are not the least afraid of work if the job shows any advantage. An Australian is not afraid of work either but the foreigners seem to have that aspiration after 'something better', and the knack of just going the other bit further, which many Australians, and, I am including all Britishers, leave the job, generally, when it will 'just do'.

Emma would certainly have made her contribution to the workload but was governed by Carl's cultural standards.

....I keep my wife out of the farm work as much as possible. A woman's work is to look after her husband and her home; certainly she helps me in the chicken season and sometimes does a little grain feeding. For this I give her a decent Xmas box, sometimes one thing and sometimes another; last year I told her she could have the returns from the fruit and she got £20. She is worth it.

By 1931 the Liebrands had moved to settle into retirement at Cabramatta. Carl would have been about 70, and Emma about 68.

In 1932 Carl and Emma were 'assaulted' by a neighbour, who turned a hose on Emma every time she was in her garden. The neighbour was fined.

In March 1945 Mr CF Liebrand of 272 Cabramatta Road was recorded in the press as complaining to Cabra-Vale Council about a tree on his neighbour's property. Life in retirement was not always smooth.

A year later Carl died in September at age 75. This was also a post war period, and perhaps anti German sentiment once again had a part to play. A year later Emma also lost her son Harold who passed away in a nursing home aged 54.

Emma Rose lived on until 1957 when she died suddenly on 31st August aged 94. Her obituary stated that she was of a quiet disposition but led an active life. A lengthy procession followed the funeral to Rookwood where she was cremated. She was survived by Marie and George. Life at Hazelbrook had obviously been the solution to her early health problems and she lived to a grand old age.

Patsy Moppett

**Note: Some slight spelling variations appear in the various records and include Leibrand, Friedrich and Freidrick.*

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

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From the Editor

BMACHO has had cause to provide submissions to local and State government on a number of occasions over the past year, and this continues our advocacy objective, to foster conservation and appreciation of the natural and built heritage of the Blue Mountains region. Some of these matters are new developments, whilst others include awareness and protection for existing premises and natural features.

BMACHO would encourage its members to continue to participate in the community consultation process, speak out and get involved, to encourage responsible authorities in the use of effective regulatory action to protect our heritage places.

Although there is almost nothing left of the *Oaklands* farm at Hazelbrook, along the undulating lower reaches of Oaklands Road, we should not forget the hard work which early settlers undertook to develop the limited agricultural land in the Blue Mountains. Through their efforts they made it work, and in turn the community benefitted from their produce. Carl and Emma Liebrand's contribution to the Woodford and Hazelbrook communities was amazing.

Helping hands are always out there to foster heritage appreciation, so we look at ways to attract the younger generation to be a part of current heritage activities. The BMCC Community Assistance Program is open again for a funding opportunity, and NSW Fair Trading changes are flagged to assist the operation of your organisation.

Look out for details about the Hartley Discovery Day on 3rd May, with all attempts being made by the community to make it a worthwhile trip from the Blue Mountains down into the Hartley Valley, despite the Mt Victoria closure. Alternate routes have had upgrading works carried out to enable travellers caught out by this situation to experience a comfortable trip, despite the extra kilometres. Hope to see you there!

The cemetery that never was.....

As a follow up to the Newsletter's recent article on Bilpin/Norwood, BMACHO individual member Peter Rickwood has investigated the whereabouts of a cemetery at Bilpin, as follows:

Wanting to locate the burial place of a one-time resident of somewhere in the area between Kurrajong and Lithgow, and having already investigated cemeteries at Lithgow, Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine, I turned to SixMaps which duly shows a cemetery at Bilpin^A (almost at the end of, and on the western side of, Bilpin Springs Road) so I was encouraged to seek more information.

On the 6th Edition of the Parish of Bilpin Map dated 1933^B there is drawn an unlabelled small block of land at Bilpin (adjacent and west of Portion 23) with a handwritten No.11 (**Figure 1**) but no Reference Note with that number has been located. However, the 7th Edition of the Parish of Bilpin Map dated 1951^C has an inset map of that location with specific areas designated for each of the specified religions (**Figure 2**) so obviously it was intended for a cemetery.



Figure 1: Parish of Bilpin, 6th Edition 1933^B

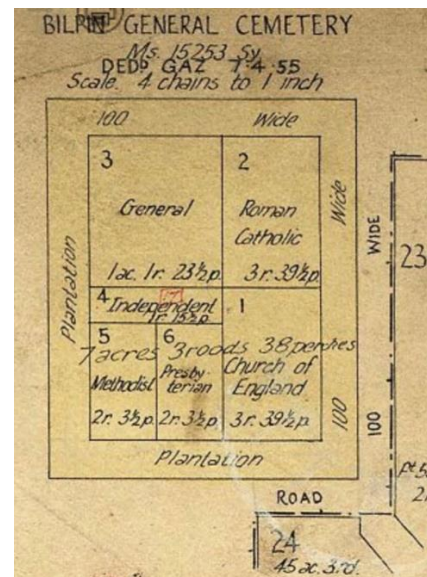


Figure 2: Parish of Bilpin, 7th Edition 1951^C

It is unlikely that burials in that land would have been permitted before a 'general cemetery' at Bilpin was Gazetted on 7 April 1955^D. Then there would have been a further delay as it was not until 1971 that the Colo Shire Council ordered their 'works committee' to undertake a site inspection^E, and also to canvas churches etc. "for opinions and suggestions" and before use it was deemed necessary for the suggested area to be cleared and fenced at a cost of "£3,570"! (The Colo Shire Council was amalgamated with The Hawkesbury Shire Council in 1972 and the latter organisation is now responsible for the area.^F) The name "*Bilpin Cemetery*" was formally assigned in 1975^G and that was recognised on the 8th Edition Map of the Parish of Bilpin^H (**Figure 3**).

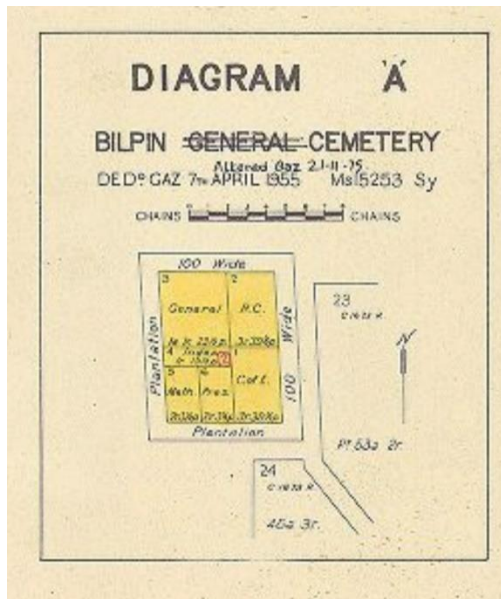


Figure 3: Inset Map
Parish of Bilpin, 8th Edition 1968^H

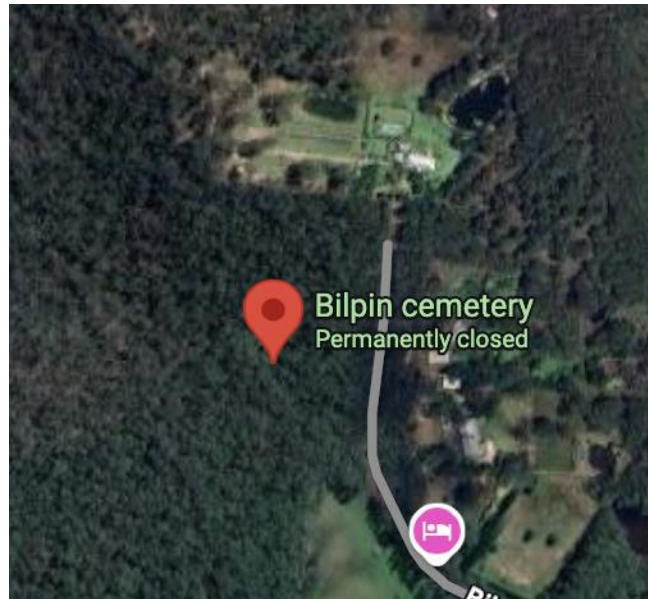


Figure 4: Google Maps^M

I was informed that "About 40 years ago some of the local (residents) ... were keen to see locals buried there."^I But were any persons actually interred at Bilpin? The Australian Cemeteries Index gives the address, the latitude and longitude, and a map of Bilpin Cemetery but no names of people interred there^J. But the Find-a-Grave website was expected to provide such names however it does not even record a cemetery at Bilpin^K! Currently the NSW Government Cemeteries Index has Bilpin Cemetery labelled as "Inactive"^L and GoogleMaps has an aerial photo labelled "Permanently Closed"^M (Figure 4) and the area is revealed to be fully occupied by trees (the cemetery location and it's density of trees is also shown on other websites^N). More importantly, the Geographic Names Register still shows the name Bilpin Cemetery^O hence it would seem that the necessary documentation is still valid, and removal of trees and erection of fencing is all that Hawkesbury City Council has to do to make the land available for burials. But is it needed now that cremation is so popular?

Postscript

It is unlikely that Bilpin residents who died at home would have been buried at cemeteries further west than Lithgow so the most probable sites^P that were used are cemeteries at Kurrajong Heights Anglican Church, Kurrajong Anglican Church and Kurrajong Catholic Church or others further eastwards.

Acknowledgement

My thanks are due to Yuri Bolotin who lives at Bilpin and kindly asked other residents about their knowledge of the use of Bilpin Cemetery.
Peter C. Rickwood

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

Billesdene Grange and Froma Court

One is a rambling and charming country dwelling dating back to c.1831-1832, set amongst aged trees and a rambling garden in a corner of a valley steeped in history going back to the crossing of the Blue Mountains in 1813. The other is an austere and decaying two storey building, painted pink, being shouldered out by shops and offices

and the cluttered rear yards of commercial premises in the centre of a Blue Mountains town and dating back to c.1908. What do these two heritage buildings have in common?

A family two brothers and their convict roots.

William Edward Neale and Sarah Townsend

William Edward Neale was a soldier, born in 1764 and convicted for desertion in 1793 from the 102nd Regiment. As a convict he arrived in Australia on the *Surprize* in 1794. In 1810 he married Sarah Townsend who was born on the Isle of White in 1773. She too was a convict, sentenced for highway robbery in 1793. She also arrived in Australia on the *Surprize*, which was where she met William. William originally hailed from Billesdon, Leicestershire UK.

William was described as a pastoralist but his trade was as a baker. By 1796 William and Sarah were recorded as living together in Sydney and by 1806 were living at Parramatta, with four children, with no record of a marriage. In 1809 he was stationed at the Hawkesbury.

When the NSW Corps returned to England, Neale obtained a discharge from the army in April 1810 in order to remain in the colony. He obtained an 80 acre land grant in the Airds district in 1811 and was registered as a landholder there in 1814. Their marriage in 1810 legitimised the birth of their children, one of whom was John Thomas Neale born in 1797 at Liverpool. They were to have five children in all. William died in 1840 and Sarah died in 1863.

John Thomas Neale and Sarah Lee

When John Thomas Neale was born in Liverpool in 1797 his father William Neale, was c.32 and his mother Sarah Townsend, was c.23. In 1816 John Thomas Neale married Sarah Lee of Castlereagh. They were the parents of eight sons and six daughters. John was a butcher by trade and farmed a small block at Soldiers Flat on Bunbury Curran Creek in the valley below Lower Minto near Campbelltown. When John was aged forty three they moved up the valley to *Denham Court*. Here John became the overseer for Captain Richard Brooks at *Denham Court*. Brooks had been master of the infamous ship *Atlas* in 1802 and of the transport ship *Alexander* in 1806. Brooks became a Macquarie magistrate and leading merchant in the colony, making a fortune through rum trading, convict shipping and establishing a cattle empire.

He built the family residence *Denham Court* which still exists today, and it became a centre of much social life. As he was a seaman Brooks had no idea of farming so he was fortunate to obtain the services of John Neale and his sons to manage the property for him. The sons became his stockmen. Through their knowledge of the local area and beyond, and their ability to liaise with the Aboriginal tribes, the Neales also opened up extensive runs for Brooks in the Illawarra, Bathurst, Kangaroo Valley and the Argyle. John Neale was a farmer at Mount Pleasant, County Murray (Queenbeyan) from 1832 to 1833; a butcher in Sydney from 1840 to 1843; living at Berrima from 1855 to 1859, and later living at Macquarie Street, Parramatta.

Sarah Neale died in 1829 in Berrima aged 45, and John remarried to Anna Maria Williams, who died at Macquarie Street, Parramatta, in 1863, aged 46. John Thomas Neale died in 1875 in Parramatta at the age of c.77 and was buried at Rookwood cemetery.



John and Sarah Neale

John Thomas Neale's sons John and William eventually took up runs in the Monaro. Two of the other sons of John Thomas and Sarah found themselves in the Blue Mountains and at Hartley. Living near Campbelltown and being associated with Richard Brooks, it is likely they were influenced in the direction of their travels by Dr William Redfern, and his overseer John Grant, William having land both at Campbelltown and at Hartley, Grant being Redfern's overseer.

James Henry Neale was born on 27th December 1828 and then Thomas Henry James Australia Neale was born on 29th December 1830, both at Minto. James and Thomas became very close brothers in their adult life.

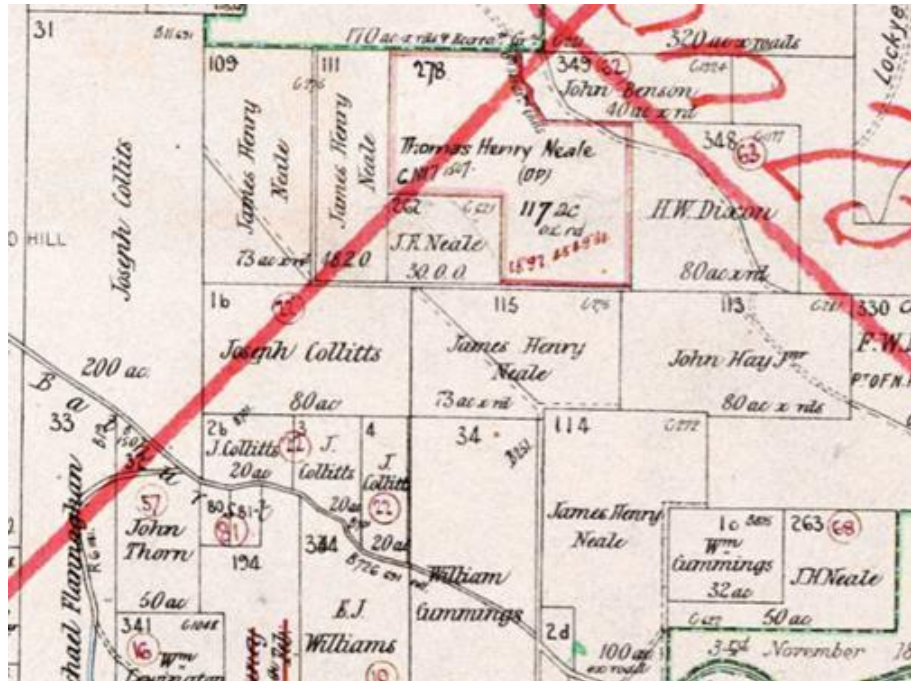
James Henry Neale (1828-1890)

James Henry Neale was born in Liverpool in 1828. His occupation was listed as a master butcher, and he also became a politician.

Down In Hartley, James Neale owned land adjacent to Joseph Collits and adjoining the land of William Cummings on which had been erected the Mt Victoria Inn as it was then known. But he is best known for his involvement in the beginnings of the township of Katoomba.

Until the 1870s the site was known as The Crushers. At first a village collected around John Britty North's mining infrastructure and a railway siding. Neale obtained from a local indigenous woman the name 'Kadumba' for the falls, and hence the naming of Katoomba was established.

In 1875 James Neale and his brother Thomas, acquired a 400 acre portion of land running from The Crushers down to Echo Point, covering much of the area of today's central Katoomba, land which included several waterfalls. His holdings included an area of around 100 acres around Katoomba Falls Road in 1876, as well as land selected by Montague Levey in 1887 which was around 44 acres plus an area of 80 acres. Around 1878 James Neale disposed of most of the land then known as the Katoomba Estate to the consortium which built the Great Western Hotel, now the Carrington.



Parish of Hartley: land owned by JH and TH Neale



Parish of Megalong: land owned by JH Neale

The 1880s and 1890s saw the beginnings of an era of hotels and guest houses within the upper mountains generally. Shops, schools and a local newspaper appeared, and in 1889 the town was gazetted as a municipality.

James Neale was interested in bush walking and developed many of the scenic tracks and reserves around Katoomba, all radiating from his home, *Froma*. Neale Street, named before 1882, follows his original meandering track south to Katoomba Falls.

James had built *Froma* in 1867, the first substantial private house in Katoomba. The house was near the present TAFE campus on Parke Street and built on the hillside below the Carrington site. At first he would bring his friends from Hartley to Katoomba to picnic there.

In 1878 he sold the property to a syndicate which proceeded to subdivide the property and hence became the first town development of Katoomba. In 1881 the house itself on Portion 53 was sold to Frederick Clissold. In 1883 it was sold to Michael Metcalfe and his family who occupied it as a country residence until 1911.



Froma Court 2014



Froma Court 2024

The house was then resumed by the Department of Public Instruction, which initially thought it might be suitable for a teacher's residence, but it was demolished to make way for a new school building, some 21 years after James Neale's death.

In the meantime, a lane had been created from Katoomba Street, named Froma Lane, which gave access through to the main street for properties at the rear. In 1908 *Froma Lodge* or *Froma Court* was built along Froma Lane by George James, a prominent butcher who was also a local alderman and mayor. It was a Federation Arts and Crafts style house, with an L shaped plan. painted brick house with an iron roof on a sandstone base, with an orientation to the south for views over the Jamieson Valley. Nearby, what is now the former post office building at 59-61 Katoomba Street was built in 1914 by the post office, its second storey being added in 1924. The Froma Court/*Froma Lodge* residence was then bought from Elizabeth James in 1914 by the post office to be the post master's residence. Under their ownership the chimneys were removed, as were all outbuildings including stables. Many alterations were then carried out in the 1980s, and in 1990 it was bought by Maxwell King. From then a dental surgery was established in the building, and the annex to the eastern side of the building was used for other purposes. At some point *Froma Court* underwent transformation to convert the historic building into residential flats. The building is no longer occupied and is falling into decay, with graffiti covering parts of the building.

James Henry Neale was the Parliament Member for East Sydney for 2 years and four months, then the Member for Hartley for two years, and again a Member for East Sydney for four years and eleven months, till November 1869.

He was a Member of the Legislative Assembly from 1864 to 1874, and then from October 1883 under a Life Appointment, until his death. He occupied positions over this time on a wide variety of committees covering such activities as the Hartley shale mines, works at the Illawarra, water supply, tramways, elections, churches, liquor, customs and oyster farming, immigration, sugar cultivation, shipwrecks and loss of life on the coast, disease in fruit trees, and the Newcastle coal wharf. Many of these committees would be constituted for only a few days while the matter was dealt with, but they do illustrate his extensive fields of interest!

Neale died in 1890 aged 62 at Wentworth Falls and was given a Methodist funeral, being buried at Rookwood. He remained unmarried till his death.

So, although James Henry Neale did not build *Froma Lodge/Froma Court*, his *Froma* legacy was to see its construction and the naming of the adjacent Lane. At this point in time the origins of the name *Froma* are unclear.

James Neale's influence helped shape the early settlement patterns and recreational use of the area, and the subsequent changes to his properties demonstrate Katoomba's growth and modernisation over time.

Thomas Henry James Australia Neale (1830-1898)

Pierce Collits established *Collits Inn* at Hartley Vale in 1823, originally naming it *The Golden Fleece*. When the main western road bypassed *Collits Inn*, Collits bought property on the new road and built another Inn, the *Royal Garter* in 1831-1832. The inn did not do well and served as a courthouse and police station between 1836 and 1839. Pierce's son, Joseph then inherited this property and in about 1870 leased it to the then police magistrate at Hartley, Thomas Henry James Australia Neale. By this time Joseph was occupying his land out at Canowindra.

Joseph Collits also owned the *The Rose Inn*, established in 1845, which later became the premises we know as *Ambermere*. Joseph held the license there in 1846, 1847 and 1848. James Sherringham held the license in 1853, 1854, 1856, 1858 and 1860.

Henry Neale bought the *Royal Garter* along with the *Rose Inn* in 1875. Neale renamed the *Royal Garter*, and established gardens there. He named it *Billesdene Grange*, after his grandparents' birthplace in England, and it became his place of residence.

Billesdene Grange is located on Portion 114 Parish of Hartley.



Billesdene Grange



Hartley Courthouse 1871

Thomas Henry James Australia Neale was born in 1830 at Minto, about when his father John had commenced work for Richard Brooks at *Denham Court*. In 1852 he married

Selina Meurant in Prospect, daughter of Rose Martin and Ferdinand Meurant. Rose Martin was born in 1796 at Parramatta and died aged 83 in 1879 at Little Hartley, where she lived with Thomas and Selina at *Billesdene Grange*.

In 1854 Thomas and Selina were living at Berrima, and by 1856 they were in Sydney. During their time at Berrima two children were born – Sarah in 1853, and Thomas Henry in 1855. Thomas jnr died aged 3. Sarah later married Captain Stephens of *Mead's Farm*, Little Hartley.

In 1873 Thomas Neale snr became the magistrate at Hartley courthouse. Early magistrates were James Blair (1837-1840), Heyward Atkins (1840-1851), Henry Bayliss (1852-1855), Thomas Brown (1855-1871), George Rowley (1871-1873), and then Henry Neale. Neale visited Wallerawang and Lithgow every alternate week, until the police centre was transferred to Lithgow in 1878. The Court of Petty Sessions at Hartley courthouse was abolished in 1887.

Thomas Neale was said to be one of the best known figures of the Blue Mountains. He was an inveterate smoker and frequently paused a court session so that he could imbibe! His Aboriginal servant Tambo, who passed away in 1898, is buried at Mt York cemetery.

Thomas died at Albany in 1898, whilst returning from a trip to England. Selina died in 1911, and they are both buried at South Terrace cemetery, Adelaide.

Billesdene Grange was lease to various occupiers for a number of years until one lessee, Harris, bought the property in 1916. The family established a major orchard and set up ancillary buildings including cool-rooms in the 1930s. The orcharding continued until 1969. In recent years the home was owned and occupied by Marcia Osterberg Olsen, historian, journalist, writer and defence lawyer (now deceased). *Patsy Moppett*

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

Attracting younger volunteers to your organisation

Attracting young volunteers to your organisation is a continuing challenge. Most society and museum volunteers are retirees who are able to devote the time to research and conservation. It is understandable that younger people are tied to employment and career responsibilities and raising families. This often does not mean they are not interested in heritage – they simply do not have the time.

It is desirable to seek the input of young people in the heritage sphere to take advantage of new ideas and enthusiasms, energies and expertise, especially when elder members of organisations are bowing out. Many societies and museums are threatened with closure simply due to lack of numbers.



Engagement

So how to make heritage more appealing to young people and doing it through ways which will not threaten their other responsibilities and time constraints, becomes the task. Some young people will never be interested in history and heritage, but it then remains our job to attract those who are. One way to sow the seeds is to engage with schools within their heritage programs, even if only once a year. Not only does it open information about heritage to children but teachers issuing home assignments in collecting a child's family history, visiting heritage sites related to local history and examining artifacts, will also involve the parents, and of course the teachers themselves. Interest can therefore be generated on multiple levels.

Change

Change is inevitable in all walks of life, and heritage is no exception. How this is managed out in the community can be influenced by historical and family history societies and museums, through recording how change has developed the landscape in the past. However, sometimes that change must come from within. Is your society or museum open to change, and initiation of new ideas and ways of doing things? In this electronic world IT skills and social media can play a large part, disciplines which are not always familiar to elder society members.

A good place to start is simply engaging someone who has IT skills, and not necessarily a grand appreciation of heritage, be it an existing member or a new one. There are also other skills which may not necessarily be heritage focused which can be applied to the operation of a society or museum, such as administration and management skills.

Rewards

We do know that the rewards that people gain from volunteering are feeling good about giving back to a cause they care about, and time spent volunteering for an organization should be enriching for all parties involved, so set clear, realistic expectations.

Volunteering should be beneficial for both you and the community. When seeking new members be clear about what you can offer and how much time you expect them to commit. Break down large tasks into smaller incremental sectors and time frames to enable the best use to be made of the limited time available from a volunteer.

We often see elder members rewarded with well-deserved life membership of an organisation, and that is a long term, often not sought after, achievement. So, for younger volunteers it may be to show ways they can achieve personal reward and recognition for effort in the short term, if they are that way inclined.

Social media

Actively engage with young people via social media. It may not be your choice of communication, but if you want to attract young people, and indeed volunteers in general, you can showcase your organization's impact through success stories, behind-the-scenes shots, and volunteer spotlights.

Opportunities

Although volunteer opportunities should expand existing networks and boost professional goals, they should also provide fun and creative outlets. Younger people tend to have very busy schedules dominated by career and family, so we need to find ways to incorporate meaningful volunteer and social opportunities that do not require them to regularly attend meetings. Chances to volunteer online are great when it comes to offering flexible options to young people.

- Virtual volunteering events are a great way to get young people initially involved in your cause. This transcends geographic restrictions and gets people talking online about your nonprofit cause. Consider free webinars and education panels.
- Enable members to attend meetings both online or live, to provide flexibility in time management and achieve greater input into discussion and decision making.
- Provide multiple time frames during which people can volunteer. Find ways to incorporate meaningful volunteer and social opportunities that do not require them to regularly attend meetings.
- Identify short-term and long-term volunteer opportunities that have concise expectations of what the job will entail, how long it will last, how many hours will be required, and how it fits into the overall mission and work of the organisation. Illustrate clearly the context for their volunteering effort.

Flexibility

Don't dismiss the younger generation with stereotypes. If you want them to be part of the organisation, you need to let them have a voice in the organisation. All members are different, but they're all people. Most importantly, be open to compromise and flexibility. What attracts this younger generation is diversity and inclusion. They're not going to volunteer their time or energy unless it's something that deeply aligns with their values or waste their precious time.

Of course, what qualifies as "younger" is subjective and is going to vary from society to society, person to person. But when you think about it, much of the above will apply equally to the younger or the older generation ie. volunteers generally.

Introspection

Lastly, consider how old you were when you became involved in the heritage sphere, and what sparked your interest. What has kept you engaged? Discuss this amongst existing members, and in particular, engage with existing younger members for feedback.

Patsy Moppett

Industrial Archaeological / Heritage Sub-group

Expressions of interest are invited for those interested and willing to participate in this sub-group (see email address below). If sufficient interest is generated, an in-person meeting is envisaged to suggest aims and possible projects to pursue. Defining industrial archaeology can be difficult at times, as various respected authorities prefer the term industrial heritage, as they contend that archaeology in the traditional sense involves excavation work, whereas industrial archaeology does not – although this view is changing.

The term industrial archaeology/heritage in a general sense can be concerned with a number of categories. One source, *Fieldwork in Industrial Archaeology*, J. Kenneth Major, 1975, has defined it as including the following: 1) Coal and mines, 2) Power, 3) Textiles, potter and glass, food preparation, brewing and distilling, 4) Transport, 5) Building materials, 6) Agricultural industry, 7) Public services, 8) Recreation industry, 9) Housing for industrial workers.

As you can see, there can be a wide range in the scope of the sub-group. Depending on what is decided at the in-person meeting, the initial range of topics to be pursued would need to be selective, given the anticipated limited resources of the sub-group e.g. personnel, equipment etc.

This suggestion was raised initially at the recent BMACHO AGM. I wish to thank Patsy Moppett and Jan Koperberg for their support in pursuing this idea.

Stephen Davis, BMHS Committee member and researcher
Email: SSDAVIS0608@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE THE CLOSING DATE FOR ARTICLES AND NOTIFICATIONS TO THE EDITOR FOR THE JULY-AUGUST 2026 ISSUE OF HERITAGE IS THURSDAY DAY 25th JUNE 2026

Community events & updates

BMCC Community Assistance Program

Blue Mountains City Council distributes funds under the Community Assistance Program to not-for-profit community organisations. The Program recognises the contribution that community organisations make to the quality of life and well-being of the local community and assists them in providing a diverse range of activities and services to meet the changing needs of local residents. The Council's contribution to these community organisations builds on and enhances their capacity to provide local activities and services. The funding is not for ongoing costs.

Grants of up to \$1000 are available for eligible community organisations. Grants of up to \$1750 are available to designated Key Community Organisations (as listed in the guidelines).

Applications opened on 1st April and close at 5m on the 4th May 2026.

Apply in writing or online by visiting the Have Your Say platform:

(<https://yoursay.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/cap-grants>) and filling out the application form.

Please read the Guidelines (<https://www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/documents/community-assistance-program-capgrants-guidelines>) to see the full eligibility criteria.

For more information contact Council's Community Development Team:

Phone: 02 4780 5000

Email: communitydevelopment@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

NSW Fair Trading changes

From 1st April 2026 the operation of charities and fundraisers in NSW will become simpler under a nationally harmonised framework.

The changes will:

- Draw the National Fundraising Principles into NSW law.
- Introduce deemed recognition for charities registered with the ACNC.
- Reduce duplicate registration and reporting requirements.
- Align NSW with national standards.

If your organisation is registered with the ACNC, you will no longer need to apply for a separate authority to fundraise in NSW. This will significantly reduce duplication and

streamline notification, reporting and record-keeping requirements, while maintaining strong safeguards for donors and the community.

Incorporated associations undertaking fundraising activities should prepare for the new charitable fundraising framework commencing 1st April 2026 to understand how it applies to their organisation. This includes complying with the National Fundraising Principles.

Learn what's changing and how it applies to your organisation:

www.nsw.gov.au/money-and-taxes/charitable-fundraising.

Contact NSW Fair Trading for more information:

Ph: 13 32 20 Monday to Friday 8:30am to 5pm.

Hartley Historic Site Discovery Day

Be charmed by antiques, live music and local art at Hartley Historic Site's free open day. Book a guided tour to learn more about this 19th century village on the western edge of the Blue Mountains, which will be held on **Sunday 3rd May 2026**, from 9am to 3pm at the Site, 51 Great Western Highway, Hartley.

You are invited to venture inside select historic buildings, browse local markets, get crafty in art sessions with Arts OutWest and bop along to live music. Discover Hartley's significant and sometimes colourful role in the growth of the NSW colony and early tourism in Australia. Then wander through quaint shopfronts and get to know local business owners.

The outside grounds of Hartley Historic Site are dog friendly, provided dogs are always kept on a leash. Stretch your legs on the Rowson's River walking track or the Bells Rock Heritage walking track.



Paid guided tours will operate throughout the day and on the hour between 10am and 3pm. Entry to the open day is free, guided walking tours are ticketed. Adult \$15 per person, child (5 to 16years) \$10 per person, children under 5 free. Concessions are \$10 per person, and families \$35 for 2 adults and 2 children. Bookings are required for these guided tours, so book online or phone 1300 072 757 for more information.

The event is operated by NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service, site managers.

To book for the guided tours, visit www.nswparks.info/hartley-discovery-day

RAHS 2026 Local History Grants (formerly known as Cultural Grants)



In 2026, the Royal Australian Historical Society received multi-year funding from Create NSW to support its devolved grants program, along with a program of regional seminars and activity in Western Sydney. As part of this, the RAHS is pleased to announce that the **2026 Local History Grants opened on 28th April**.

Formerly known as the Cultural Grants, the program has been relaunched as the Local History Grants to better reflect its purpose and align with the goal of supporting local, community and regional history across New South Wales.

The RAHS will distribute \$65,000 + GST in grants this year, an increase in funding made possible through the ongoing support of Create NSW. Applicants can apply for projects of up to \$6,000 + GST. The program supports a wide range of projects, including publications, exhibitions, oral histories, digital initiatives and collection management. Applications are open to New South Wales organisations working to research and share the history of their local areas and communities. Guidelines are now available on the RAHS website and should be read before applying. Applicants are encouraged to contact the RAHS to discuss their project and confirm eligibility.

Application forms are available for download from **28th April**, and completed applications should be submitted by email. **Applications close at midnight on 23rd June 2026**.

The RAHS looks forward to receiving a range of interesting and engaging project proposals. The RAHS is available to assist with the application process and can be contacted with any questions:

Email: grants@rahs.org.au

Phone: **02 9247 8001**.

Website: <https://www.rahs.org.au/local-history-grants-program/> to learn more about the Program.

Annual General Meetings

Nepean & District Historical Society

Meeting held 28th February 2026

- President: Phillip Braham
- Vice President: Craig Werner
- Secretary: Trish Montgomery
- Treasurer: Harry May
- Museum Manager: Tony Grainge
- Business Manager: Jenny Hotop
- Site Manager: Janice Ford
- Heritage Officer: Beth Moore
- Ordinary Committee Member: Richard Nutt
- Honorary Auditor: Jim Mason

- Public Officer: Harry May

Lithgow Branch National Trust

Meeting held 18th March 2026

- Chair: Danny Whitty
- Vice Chair: Ramsay Moodie
- Secretary: Celia Ravis
- Treasurer: Ramsay Moodie
- Committee: Robyn Whitty, Susie Moodie, Anthony Ravesi, Fiona Lawless

Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Organisations (BMACHO)

Meeting held 28th March 2026

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

Blue Mountains Historical Society

Meeting held 11th April 2026

- President: Dr Robert Strange
- Senior Vice-President: Phil Hammon
- Vice-President: Robyne Ridge
- Treasurer: Stephen Davis, together with an accounting firm
- Secretary: Fiona Burn
- Committee: John Hill, Ron Powell, Chris Webber



We will remember them

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 or j.koperberg@bigpond.com

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

ABN: 53 994 839 952

The organisation: Blue Mountains Association of Cultural & Heritage Organisations Inc. (BMACHO) was established in April 2006 after local historical and heritage societies and individuals recognised the need for the creation of a cultural heritage strategy for the local government area (LGA) of Blue Mountains City Council. The constituency now embraces but is not limited to, the LGAs of Blue Mountains, Lithgow, Hawkesbury and Penrith. BMACHO membership includes historical and heritage groups, museums, commercial enterprises with an historical or heritage component in its core business, local government (local studies units, library collections) and a limited number of individual members by invitation such as but not necessarily academics. The 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 *Blue Mountains History Journal* has been edited by Dr Peter Rickwood but is in obeyance at present. 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; Lithgow Small Arms Factory Museum; 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 2026-2027 (from March 2026) is: Rod Stowe (President); Phil Hammon (Vice President); Philip Hammon (Treasurer and Membership Secretary); Jan Koperberg (Secretary/ Public Officer); Fiona Burn, Dick Morony, Patsy Moppett 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.