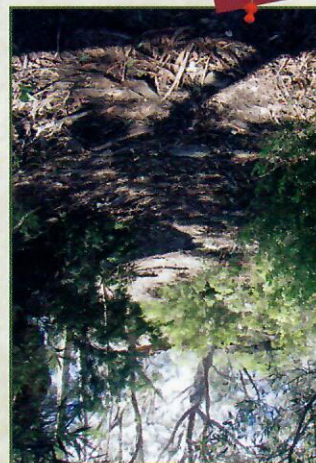


7 Retrace Cox's Road - walk the descent from Mt York



Cox's Road still exists, and nowhere more dramatically than when it drops off the escarpment at Mt York near Mt Victoria and takes the perilous descent down into the Hartley Valley. It's still there, as the road over which the development of western NSW commenced.

Appearing as little more than a bullock track to our modern eye, it's hard to imagine the then Governor, Lachlan Macquarie, and his wife Elizabeth, taking their coach down this 'road' in 1815 on their way to what was to be named Bathurst.

It is there for all to see, the convict picked gutters, the widening to allow the coach to pass and the handpiked slots in which a rail fence was inserted to protect animals.

As described by Mrs Elizabeth Hawkins who made the journey in April, 1822 with her husband, her mother (aged 70) and eight children, ranging from one to twelve years of age

"... we reached within a mile of Mount York, or more commonly called the 'Big Hill'. I desired Tom to ride on and give us some account of it. He soon came galloping back. "Oh! Ma, you will never get up. I am sure you won't. I can't see much of the road, but I can see the valley you are to reach. It is dreadful." Our courage began to fail by the time we reached the top. So now all stopped to recover resolution. I gave all something to eat and some wine to drink. The men began to cut down trees necessary to chain behind the drays"



5 Travel along Cox's Road between Woodford and Mt York

Between Woodford and Mt Victoria, the road is along the alignment of the Great Western Highway. At Mt Victoria, take the Mt York Road to the start of the Mt York descent.

The depot known as the Weatherboard Hut was the first building in the Blue Mountains. Constructed by Cox's party, it was used as a barracks and overnight accommodation. The area of Wentworth Falls was known as Weatherboard until the railway station was named in 1879.



"The building for the store is 17 x 12, with 3 ft. sides, gable-ended, all weather-boards, and a door on the east end... Cost me eight men, six days. It is 28 miles from Emu Ford."

William Cox 1814

7 Travel along the line of Cox's Road between Emu Ford and the Linden/Woodford Precinct

Cox's Road meets the Great Western Highway near Glenbrook, having wound its way up through today's suburbs of Emu Plains, Leony, Lapstone and Glenbrook.

As you travel along the Great Western Highway you are following the alignment of Cox's Road.

Woodford was originally known as '20 Mile Hollow', the 'chained distance' in miles from the Nepean River.



Work started on Cox's Road at Emu Ford on 18 July 1814.

On 26 July, Cox reported "made a complete crossing place from the end of Emu Plains to the foot of the mountains... The ascent is steep, the soil very rough and stony; the timber chiefly ironbark."

Take a walk in the heritage-listed **Woodford Trig Precinct** and note the evidence of road building - intermittent kerb-lines or low side-cuttings (some with shallow gutters or drains) which have been cut into the surface of the exposed sandstone rock platforms of the ridge.



6 Explore Linden and Woodford precincts

Linden Precinct The Linden - Tollgate Drive/Railway Parade sections of the 1814 road is one of the more intact surviving and overlapping with an unsurfaced access road along the top of the ridge. From the ridge there are extensive views on both sides of the road similar to those described by early travellers, giving a sense of the experience of the early 19th century road.

Woodford Trig Precinct The 1814 road runs partially within the line of a more modern unsealed access track which leads from Hepburn Road to the Woodford Trig Station and partly within adjoining private property allotments, most of which remain undeveloped. From the Woodford Trig Station the road continues past the Rockcory cottages where it is known as Old Bathurst Road. The road then coincides with modern Taylor Road for at least 650 metres.