

HERITAGE

NEWSLETTER OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION
OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS

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ISSUE No. 1

ARCHAEOLOGY TEAM SURVEYS MINING CAMP

A historical archaeology team from Sydney University has begun a field survey of the mining camp site in the valley below Scenic World's complex at Katoomba.

The project follows a meeting of the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations committee hosted by Mr Philip Hammon the managing director of Scenic World in its boardroom at Katoomba.

Prior to the meeting, Mr Hammon took the committee on a tour of the complex including the 415 metre descent on the Scenic Railway which passes through a cliff side tunnel, a walk along the 2 kilometre elevated boardwalk past the site of the mining camp and then a climb back to the top in the 545 metre long Cableway transporter.

During the meeting he asked for advice on the best way to catalogue the mining objects retrieved from the site.

Within days, BMACHO secretary, Professor Barrie Reynolds had arranged and attended a meeting with Dr Martin Gibbs of the Historical Archaeology Department at Sydney University and Annie Clark (SU) of Bullaburra and Mr Hammon when it was agreed that

WOODFORD ACADEMY AN 1830S INN



A BRIEF HISTORY see page 7

students from Sydney University would carry out a field survey for relics and other objects in ashes of camp fires at the site.

The first inspection and site mapping commenced in late November last year.

At right... This 1890s image of the mining village from the top of the cliff around Katoomba Falls shows a number of huts and an unexpectedly large building in the lower part. The image has been provided by Dr Ian Jack (vice president BMACHO) to the university team for part of the project documentation. The photograph taken by Henry King is part of a Mitchell Library album (PXA 61/70) Cont page 2



BLUE MOUNTAINS COUNCIL APPOINTS 2 HERITAGE ADVISERS

Blue Mountains City Council has engaged two consultants on a part time basis as heritage advisers. This program is being funded solely by council.

BMACHO which has been pressing council for several years for the appointment of a heritage adviser and the re-establishment of a community heritage advisory committee welcomed the recent announcement. It is now hoped the advisory committee will be established by the end of 2009.

Mr Christo Aitken is to provide advice to the council and the community in heritage matters such as development applications, policy development and other heritage related projects. Dr Peter Kabaila is to provide advice to council on specific projects.

Appointments with the advisers are to be made through council

staff. Advice for development assessment advice is to be provided on a fee basis and appointments are to be made through Deborah d'Avigdor on 47805738. Appointments for other advice are to be made through Christine Jones on 47805609.

Council's manager of city planning, Mr Andy Turner, has indicated the advisers' work will include the computerisation of heritage site records produced some years ago, by Dr Ian Jack and reviewing various models for the establishment of a heritage advisory committee.

Meanwhile, regular meetings are being held between BMACHO secretary, Barrie Reynolds and Andy Turner, which are facilitating a useful exchange on the heritage work currently being undertaken by council and BMACHO.



From the president's pen..... NEED FOR IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS

Some time ago, the committee of BMACHO identified as a major issue, the need to improve communications in the local heritage sector.

Across a broad range of issues it was considered that various organisations were not sharing information which could not only make their operations more effective, but would also make life easier and more pleasant in the bid to achieve goals of conserving, researching, recording, preserving and promoting our heritage.

The executive has spent considerable energy and time, with some success in opening up communication with Blue Mountains City Council, the former Federal Member for Macquarie, Kerry Bartlett, the State Member for Blue Mountains and now the Federal Member, the Hon. Bob Debus and the new Member for Blue Mountains, Phil Koperberg.

In discussions with these community leaders they have generally displayed more than a cursory interest and knowledge of the diversity of heritage in the Blue Mountains, Lithgow and Hawkesbury regions. However, what they were not aware of was the large number of individuals, which includes amateur enthusiasts, academics and professionals who are active within the local heritage sector.

Community leaders have accepted the need to improve two-way communication and BMACHO's executive has seen some tangible improvement at government level.

Many of those active in the heritage sector appear to have operated in isolation for many years — sometimes, totally unaware of the importance they play in the fabric of Australian society.

For more than five decades societies in this region have been

party to hosting most informative historic talks and presentations and yet there has been very little done in the way of publishing these interesting dissertations.

There have been some excellent books produced by local authors on very well researched material, but little effort in promoting these publications. Even some of the newsletters which have been produced are in their own right worthy of commendation as sound historical documents.

While there is an urgent need to promote publications in print, there is an even greater need to share information between like organisations. It is imperative that organisations, if they are to succeed in maintaining membership, become more proactive in selling their group to the public. One of the best ways of doing this is to communicate and share ideas with like minded bodies.

To participate in the process of improving communications, BMACHO's executive has initiated this newsletter, **HERITAGE** which currently it is proposed to publish every couple of months. The newsletter is designed to reach as many individuals as possible.

Too often communications addressed to busy secretaries do not seem to go any further down the line. It is hoped that secretaries on receipt of **HERITAGE** on their e-mail will simply forward it on to those members who have registered their e-mail.

Hopefully those who do not have e-mail will be provided with hard copies by other members of their organisation.

John K Leary, OAM - President and newsletter editor, Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations.

KATOOMBA MINING CAMP DIG

Continued from page 1

Coal and shale oil mining began in the Blue Mountains during the latter part of the 1800s.

By 1870 kerosene shale had been discovered in Megalong Valley.

John Britty North opened a coal mine at Katoomba in 1881 and kerosene shale was being mined in the Jamieson Valley by 1890 and Megalong by 1891.

According to GH Eardley and EM Stephens in their book *The Shale Railways of NSW*, John Britty North had acquired 640 acres of land forming the high-level water-shed of Katoomba Falls Creek with the intention of exploiting the coal seams which outcropped at the base of the cliff many hundreds of feet below.

The discovery of two payable seams of kerosene shale at the base of the massive sandstone cliffs ranged along the eastern and western sides of the lengthy Narrow Neck Peninsula, embracing the upper regions of the Jamieson Valley, the Ruined Castle dividing ridge and the adjacent valley of Cedar Creek, has been credited to Campbell Mitchell.

However, although he acquired some land under MCP he made no effort to work this new shale deposit area, presumably because of the difficult nature of the terrain.

A close examination of the Ruined Castle area of the Jamieson Valley made by John Britty North's manager, Garbutt, during 1880 revealed two out-crops of kerosene shale and on the strength of this find North was instrumental in forming the Katoomba Coal and Shale Company Limited

A number of cable haulage, aerial ropeways and horse tramways were used to bring the mined minerals eventually to the NSW Government Railway line near Katoomba.

Our place in space -- Under the Southern Cross

As part of the National Trust Heritage Festival, Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations will host an afternoon of heritage lectures on Saturday, April 4.

The National Trust Heritage Festival has been operating very successfully for 29 years and hundreds of historical and like minded heritage groups have staged a wide range of events over 14 days in April.

This year's festival theme is 'Our Place in Space - Under the Southern Cross'.

Two eminent speakers have been engaged, Dr Nick Lomb who is the curator of astronomy at the Power House Museum. Dr Lomb has chosen the title, the "History of Australian Astronomy", in which he will make reference to the observations of the Transit of Venus at Woodford Academy in 1874.

The other speaker is Mr John Sarkissian an Operations Scientist at the CSIRO Parkes Radio Observatory. Mr Sarkissian has chosen as his subject, "Australian Radio Astronomy: From a Brilliant Past to a Bright Future".

Radio astronomy is the only science in which Australia leads the world. From its beginnings at Dover Heights, Sydney, through the development of the Parkes Radio Telescope in the 1960s and to the new generation instruments planned for the next decade, the world has always looked to Australia for leadership in this exciting field.

This talk will detail the establishment of the science in the immediate post-war years, and the reasons which led to Australia taking the lead in this new field. It will bring to light the brilliant advances and discoveries that have shaped its development and why it continues to have a bright future in Australia.

Mr Sarkissian is responsible for the operation and systems development at the radio telescope, and the support of visiting astronomers with their observations. In addition, he is involved in Pulsar research - an exciting field of radio astronomy.

John is a member of the Parkes Pulsar Timing Array team which is endeavouring to use precision pulsar timing to make the first direct detection of gravitational waves. He is also a member of the small, informal team searching for the

missing Apollo 11 slow-scan TV tapes. From 1998-1999, John acted as a technical adviser for the feature film, "The Dish". He came to Parkes in 1996 to support the Galileo Mission to Jupiter. He managed the Galileo spacecraft tracking operations at the observatory and performed 1/3 of the daily tracking duties. From 1988 to 1996, John was a Guide Lecturer and Education Officer at Sydney Observatory.

Each illustrated lecture will be for 45 minutes with 15 minutes being allowed for questions and answers from the audience

The lectures will be accompanied by entertainment by a trio from the Blue Mountains Opera Group, Ron Goldsmith, Maureen Stuart and Tina Banasiak with songs about the sun, moon and stars.

The afternoon will be conducted at the Blue Mountains Grammar College commencing at 2pm and admission will cost \$20 per person and include afternoon tea and a glass of wine.

Bookings are essential and can be made by telephoning John Leary on 4758 8584 or e-mail johnnanette@optusnet.com.au



Pictured at the Woodford Academy site is the canvas "tent city" including observatory domes and telescopes set up for the observation of the Transit of Venus on December 9, 1874. The property was then known as Woodford House and owned by Sydney businessman Alfred Fairfax

Lee-Enfield rifle No 1.

Ask a man if he remembers dates of wedding anniversaries and spouse's birthday and most men will have a difficulty. Ask a former soldier his regimental number or his rifle number and most will reel off the number without hesitation.

Imagine however, if your rifle had been No 1. Well, .303 Lee-Enfield rifle number 1 does exist and can be found in the Lithgow Small Arms Factory Museum. **HERITAGE** is indebted to Donna White, president of the museum for the material and picture in this article.



Prior to 1900 practically all defence equipment had been supplied to Australia by the United Kingdom. During the South African Boer War campaign it became apparent that Australia's isolation from its armament source could lead to serious supply problems in future conflicts.

After federation of the states and establishment of the Commonwealth in 1901 the new government faced responsibility for the country's defence.

In 1907 the decision was made to establish a factory for the manufacture of small arms in Australia.

After much deliberation amongst government officials, Lithgow, situated on the western foothills of the Great Dividing Range, was approved as the site for the new factory.

Influencing this choice was the town's steel works, a thriving coal industry; access by rail and road; protection from bombardment afforded by the Blue Mountains; and intense lobbying by the Lithgow Progress Association.

Tenders were invited from England, Europe and America for the supply of a complete plant to manufacture the .303 inch Lee-Enfield rifle (the rifle used by the British Army) at the rate of 250 per week.

Four tenders were received; three from British arms manufacturers for around £150,000, £100,000 and £69,000, and one from an American machine tool company Pratt & Whitney Co. for a bit under £69,000.

In a very controversial decision Pratt & Whitney were chosen because, amongst other things, they guaranteed interchangeability of components straight off the machine whereas the English tenders could not guarantee interchangeability.

They also offered to train six Australian tradesmen at their works in America to return to Lithgow as foremen.

On arrival in America the trainees were located at the Pratt & Whitney Works at Hartford, Connecticut, where they worked on the production of tools, fixtures and gauges and the operation of the various machines.

One hundred test rifles and bayonets were produced to prove the machinery that was destined for the Lithgow Factory, a few of which were sent to England to test for interchangeability with British produced rifles. (The Lithgow Small Arms Factory Museum holds No 2 and No 28 complete with bayonet).

Operation of the Factory commenced early in 1912 with 190 employees. Little was known in Australia about production engineering before the commencement of the Small Arms Factory.

The men who were selected to go to the Pratt & Whitney plant to gain experience, pioneered the manufacture of interchangeable parts in Australia.

Some of the Pratt & Whitney supplied machines were still being used in the 1960s.

There are 170 different component parts in the rifle and its accessories. It required 2,250 separate operations upon these parts before a rifle would be ready for final inspection.

In May 1913, 40 rifles and bayonets from a process-proving batch were delivered to the Australian Army for testing. By December 1913 - 1500 rifles had been produced. Following the outbreak of World War I in 1914 production rose to 1600 rifles per week.

During February 1914, members of a Rifle Qualifying Course at the Army's School of Musketry in Sydney used Lithgow rifles for a month.

The commanding officer reported that accuracy was excellent, calibration of the sights being better than the general run of British-made rifles.

There were a few problems, such as the bolt action becoming stiff after firing a number of rounds, but these were considered easily rectified.

During World War II various experimental and modified versions were manufactured including the No 1 Shortened & Lightened, the No 6, EY grenade launcher, and HT sniper models. The SMLE remained as the Australian and Commonwealth service rifle through both world wars and the Korean War. After facing massed attacks in Korea it became clear that the SMLE had had its day. Production of the SMLE ceased in Lithgow in 1956 with approximately 640,000 in total being produced.

BICENTENNARY OF NATURALIST CHARLES DARWIN'S BIRTH

This year marks the bicentenary of the birth of Charles Darwin. He was born on February 12, 1809 in Shewsbury, England.

Darwin one of the great thinkers of all time was the British naturalist who became famous for his theories of evolution and natural selection.

Like several scientists before him, Darwin believed all the life on earth evolved over millions of years from a few common ancestors.

Darwin developed his interest in natural history while studying medicine at Edinburgh University then theology at Cambridge.

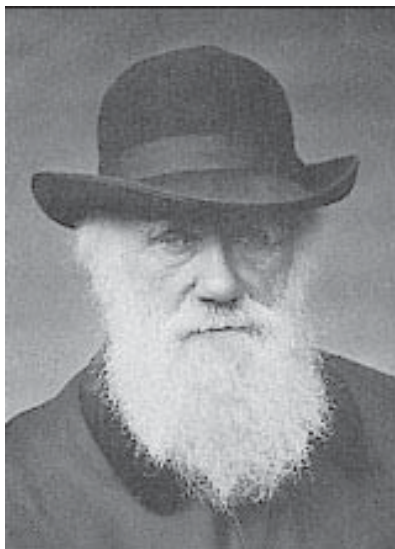
His five year voyage of the Beagle established him as an eminent geologist whose observations and theories supported Charles Lyell's uniformitarian ideas, and publication of his journal of the voyage made him famous as a popular author.

Puzzled by the geographical distribution of wildlife and fossils collected on the voyage, Darwin investigated the transmutation of species and conceived his theory of natural selection in 1838

His 1859 book *On the Origin of Species* established evolution by common descent and the dominant scientific explanation of diversification in nature. He examined human evolution and sexual selection in *The Descent of Man and Selection and Relation to Sex*.

Darwin's theories on evolution are as relevant today as they were when he first published, *Origin of the Species*, 150 years ago.

On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or The Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life (usually abbreviated to *On the Origin of the Species* proved unexpectedly popular, with the entire stock of 1,250 copies oversubscribed when it went on sale to booksellers on November 22, 1859. In the book, Darwin set out "one long argument" of detailed observations, inferences



Darwin in 1880, still working on his contribution to evolutionary thought that had an enormous effect on many fields of science

and consideration of anticipated objections. His only allusion to human evolution was the understatement that "light will be thrown on the origin of man and his history".

He visited the Blue Mountains of NSW in 1836 while travelling around the world in HMS *Beagle*.

He stopped off at Wentworth Falls (then known as Weatherboard), travelling on to Bathurst, sighting a

platypus as he passed through Wallerawang

In Australia, the marsupial rat-kangaroo and the platypus seemed so unusual that Darwin thought it was almost as though two distinct creators had been at work.

He found the Aborigines good-humoured and pleasant", and noted their depletion by European settlement.

Local celebrations

Celebrations to mark the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birthday will be held around the world in 2009.

BMACHO has applied for a federal government grant to conduct local celebrations.

Subject to grant funding, a series of lectures and a guided walk along the Darwin path at Wentworth Falls are planned for later this year.

Already Dr Peter Stanbury who was involved in the planning and construction of the Darwin path has agreed to conduct a guided tour and several eminent speakers are expected to give lectures at Wentworth Falls and Lithgow.

HERITAGE PUBLICATIONS SEMINAR SUCCESS

Local historians, academics and heritage book writers from the Blue Mountains region including Lithgow, late last year participated in a day-long "Heritage Publications" seminar at Everglades, Leura.

The seminar organised by the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations (BMACHO) was designed for participants to improve their knowledge and share experiences in publishing ranging from books to newsletters and promotional material.

Feedback indicated because of the quality of speakers, participants went away from the seminar with

many new ideas making them more confident about self publishing as well as promoting their own organisations.

The speakers included Professor Barrie Reynolds who gave the keynote address titled 'Why Publish?' Dr Ian Jack, president of the RAHS who presented a paper titled 'Making Historical Society Newsletters and Journals More Accessible', John Leary who presented a paper titled 'A newsletter -- its editorial content and design', several individuals who had published their own books and Wendy Dollin from Blue Mountains Tourism.

What is the history of these chimneys?

These two chimneys stand on a property in Springwood Road near its intersection with Castlereagh Road, Agnes Banks. John Leary who is writing a book about chimneys took the photograph and is having difficulty tracing the history of this property.

He would appreciate anyone who has knowledge of these buildings of which the chimneys were part making contact with him on e-mail johnnanette@optusnet.com.au

In the book he will accompany images of chimneys with the structure of which they are a part.

These images range from the stack atop Stephenson's *Rocket*, to chimneys on the unusual architectural structure of Walter Burley Griffins garbage disposal incinerators' chimney, to vents constructed to take the gases from Sydney's early sewerage systems.

In the opening paragraphs of his manuscript John writes - *There is something nostalgic about a brick or sandstone chimney standing like a sentinel on guard in a country paddock where once stood, a fine home long since destroyed by the ravages of bushfire roaring through the parched Australian landscape.*

The lone chimney and fireplace seem to stand forever, perhaps hopeful that the homestead will one day be rebuilt so that generations will again gather around the open fire to swap yarns or stand, hands clasped behind their backs, warming themselves on a cold wintry night.

Many a yarn has been told, sometimes over a glass of wine as young and old sit before the hearth gazing into the enigmatic flames.

When the forest fires and bushfires' ferocious thirst is quenched, there is nothing more poignant than blackened chimneys standing among the ruins of homes which before the fiery holocaust struck were scenes of excitement and happiness.

But continue to stand they do, while all around them lies the clutter of devastation.



GUEST SPEAKER FOR BMACHO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations will conduct its fourth annual general meeting on Saturday, March 21 in the Blue Mountains Historical Society's meeting room at Tarella, Blaxland Road Wentworth Falls. commencing at 2pm

The meeting will be followed by a guest speaker, Dr Ian Jack, president Royal Australian Historical Society whose subject will be: "From the Hawkesbury and Nepean to the Cudgong: the Historical and Cultural Character of BMACHO's constituency".

It is important that the incoming committee be balanced with a mix

of existing members and new blood and all organisations are asked to consider nominating for any of the following positions: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, or one of the ordinary committee members.

There is also a need to share the load which has been carried entirely by the management committee for the past three years and it is hoped that volunteers might come forward to take on responsibility for membership (both recruitment and service), overall coordination of projects, planning and coordinating workshops, representing BMACHO at political level, grant applications, managements of new books and bibliographies project.

THE OLDEST BUILDING ON THE BLUE MOUNTAINS



Now known as Woodford Academy, this historic property has had a multi-layered use with parts of the building dating back to the 1830s.

It is the oldest collection of buildings on the Blue Mountains, the basic structure being of sandstone.

Among its many uses, it has been The Woodman Inn, The King's Arms, Buss's Inn, a gentleman's residence, school for young gentlemen, day school for local children, guest house, boarding house and private residence.

Thomas Pembroke, some years after release from his sentence completed the first buildings on the site, circa 1834 after he was granted two acres and later a further 48 acres.

He used stone masons and timber splitters to construct a building which may have later become the schoolroom, Fairfax sitting room and the three small adjoining rooms.

Woodford Academy stands close to the place where William and Mary James ran a "sly grog" shop for

people travelling through the mountains on their way to Bathurst and further inland to settle on the land.

In the 1850s it became a stopover for people on their way to the goldfields in search of their fortunes.

While Pembroke was the licensee, on October 12, 1835, Mary James was discovered hanging and her husband was charged with her murder.

The case against him was subsequently dismissed and after a second trial he was freed. Thomas Pembroke owned the inn from 1834 to 1839.

In 1839, Thomas Pembroke sold the heavily mortgaged inn to Michael Hogan of Penrith.

The name of the inn was then changed to The King's Arms and a number of other licencees ran the inn for Hogan.

The kitchen at Woodford is an excellent example of a colonial kitchen.

The lath and plaster ceiling is a typical example of colonial architecture.

William Buss acquired the inn in 1855 which then became popularly known as Buss's Inn.

In 1868 Buss's widow sold the inn to Alfred Fairfax and he in turn built further rooms onto the building and turned it into a gentleman's residence.

He added a two story building for housing his guests, a ballroom and altered the taproom by building an entrance hall between it and the sitting room.

Evidence of the use of the taproom can be seen by the markings of the shelves on the northern wall of the room as well as a distinctive cartouche which dates from that time.

In the cartouche are painted grapes, peaches and corn, the fruits of fermentation which were used in the making of spirits.

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Woodford Academy

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The taproom would be the equivalent of today's hotel bar and the busiest part of the building.

Probably built during the mid 1850s the dairy wing contained a meat room, (used for storing and curing meat with salt which caused much of the stone walls to corrode); a servants room; a dairy where milk, cream and other perishables would have been kept as well as a loft for storing animal fodder.

When John McManamey conducted Woodford Academy from 1907 to 1925 the large room downstairs was used both as a chapel and dining room for the students. Upstairs were the dormitories where the boys slept.

The courtyard surface is stone flagging, in the centre of which is a fine convict-built, barrel-vaulted underground water tank large enough to provide a plentiful water supply for the inn.

In 1979 Woodford Academy was gifted to the National Trust of Australia (NSW) which has renovated and maintained this heritage property. In 2001 the Trust obtained an Australian Government grant of \$1 million from the Centenary of Federation fund.

The property is regularly open to public viewing and from time to time the Blue Mountains Branch of the National Trust conducts special functions on the site.

COUNCILLORS BRIEFING

BMACHO's executive has had informal discussions with several Blue Mountains City Council members elected at last September's local government elections who have indicated an interest in having a briefing on heritage issues.

Council's planning manager, Andy Turner has indicated that he will attempt to include formal briefings by BMACHO during general briefings of new councillors scheduled for early in 2009.

Colonial kitchen evokes memories of hardships of 19th century cooking



The colonial kitchen at Woodford Academy evokes images of the hardships of those who had to provide the meals in mid 19th century.

The large fireplace and oven are among the finest surviving in NSW, the segmental stone arch over the fireplace being quite rare.

There is also a carved stone sink with a large plug which when removed allowed the water that had to be carried in from the well outside to be drained out through a hole in the wall.

It would appear that it has been built following the typical plan of an English kitchen circa 1850's. According to *The illustrated history of the housewife, 1650-1950*, Robertson, Una A., New York, St Martin's Press 1997, pp 93-94. "Well-to-do households would possess a separately fired bread oven in which all the household's baking of breads, pies, cakes and other items would be done on a set day. Most were constructed of brick or stone but some were made in cast iron before the introduction of the kitchen range with its integral oven. The oven was roughly circular or oval in shape, lined with brick or stone, and the entrance

was closed with a tight-fitting door of some hardened wood, replaced latterly by one of iron.

When baking day came round, once a week or once a fortnight, a fire was lit inside the oven itself and allowed to burn until all the surfaces were hot. The embers were then raked out, the oven floor swabbed with a damp mop and the door closed until the heat evened itself out, after which the first items were inserted with an oven-peel and the door fitted into place.

As the day progressed, so cooked items were taken out and other items requiring diminishing amounts of heat were put in: "I have known a very large brick oven, heated in the middle of the day with a load of wood, still warm enough at 8 or 9 o'clock in the evening to bake various delicate small cakes such as macaroons and meringues."

Although in later days this kitchen became part of the extensions known as the east wing it would originally have been a separate building.

Extracts from "A brief history of Woodford Academy" by Nanette Leary. Photographs by Stephen Bennetts and John Leary

The Clampett family visit Kurrajong

This article by Valerie Holland which appeared in The Millstone, newsletter is published with the kind permission of the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society Inc. Photo: Frank Holland.

The hillbilly Clampett family of scarecrows assembled in style in the back of Bryan Wyborn's A Model Ford utility outside the CWA Hall in Kurrajong and greeted and amused visitors of the society's annual display as part of the Kurrajong Scarecrow Festival held over the weekend of Saturday, October 25 and Sunday October 26.

Anne and Les Dollin created these excellent likenesses of the former television and film family and the car was kindly loaned by Bryan Wyborn.

This year our exhibition was entitled 'Uncovering your property's heritage' and was a two day event. Frank Holland had suggested that we involve members and visitors in the process of collecting documentary evidence of early landholdings which members had donated.

Arthur Cooper displayed two large folders of fascinating images of Glossodia, formerly known as Currency Creek, and shared stories of their history, while Garth Smith projected mapping images.

Another highlight was our photographic display. Joy Shepherd delighted visitors by providing the opportunity for them to view and purchase copies of images from the society's archives.

The exhibition has provided us with positive outcomes. We were given historical information from members of the community to include in our collection and have received an invitation to visit historic properties and record related information.



Bryan Wyborn, his A Model Ford ute and the Clampett family drew much interest at the society's annual display

We extend our sincere thanks to North Richmond Community Bank branch Bendigo Bank for providing a community grant which enabled us to purchase the parish maps.

Thanks also to many willing members of the society and wider community who provided their assistance and forwarded their knowledge during the course of the exhibition.

Photos and videos of the Kurrajong Strawbillies – www.scarecrows-in-motion.com.au

Branching out: Stories from the Blue Mountains - an online gallery exhibition

The Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute (BMWHI) has brought together a group of community people to develop a mixed media exhibition for online access.

The exhibition will use the eucalypt as the catalyst for exploring people's stories of people from the Blue Mountains, reflections, and experiences for both historical and contemporary perspectives.

The exhibition will be from a cross cultural perspective combining social history, archival material and contemporary artworks – drawing on private, public and community collections. A section about bushfires will also be incorporated

The project is being undertaken between January and April 2009.

The project has the potential to enhance cultural tourism opportunities through increasing dynamic and

new interpretations of the people and environment of this region.

It could also stimulate long term benefits in providing a catalyst for contemporary presentations of Indigenous and non-Indigenous natural and cultural heritage.

The project is seeking permission to photograph or access images for loan of cultural material such as: archival material, drawings, poems, photographs, sculptures, memorabilia, ceramics, textiles, paintings, prints, stories etc.

For more information or to discuss ideas and contributions contact Cheryle Yin-Lo, project co-ordinator at Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute, phone 4782 4657 or c.yin-lo@bmwhi.org.au .

Copyright of cultural material identified will be negotiated with lenders and acknowledged .

Society's heritage grant

The Blue Mountains Historical Society has been awarded a \$4000 federal Community Heritage Grant to fund a Significance Assessment.

The grant was announced at the National Library of Australia, Canberra

In 2008, grants worth \$366,800 were distributed to 70 community groups and organisations from around Australia to assist in the identification and preservation of community owned but nationally significant heritage collections.

In addition, Susan Warmbath, curator from Blue Mountains Historical Society, attended a three-day intensive preservation and collection management workshop held in Canberra.

Mrs Warmbath said the grant was important in supporting the effort to preserve the society's collection records and the cottage Tarella at the grassroots level.

CONSERVATION AWARDS

The National Trust of Australia (NSW) is seeking nominations for the 2009 Energy Australia National Trust Heritage Awards.

Individuals, government departments, commercial organisations and community groups who have completed an outstanding conservation project in the last year are encouraged to enter the awards.

Trust executive director, John Neish, said, "the heritage awards are an important way the National Trust can foster and reward conservation efforts at both community and industry level".

Categories include Conservation – Built Heritage and Landscape Conservation projects, Interpretation and Presentation, Tourism and Cultural Heritage.

Energy Australia will once again offer a special Lifetime Achievement Award, to be presented to an individual for his or her outstanding contribution to heritage or environmental conservation.

BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

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THE ORGANISATION Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Organisations Inc. (BMACHO) was established in April 2006 following a unanimous response to a proposal from Barrie Reynolds at the 2004 Blue Mountains Local History Conference which sought from Blue Mountains City Council the creation of a cultural heritage strategy for the city.

BMACHO in its constitution uses the definition: "Cultural heritage is all aspects of life of the peoples of the Blue Mountains which was later changed to cover Lithgow and the villages along the Bell's Line of Roads. It therefore involves the recording, preserving and interpreting of information in whatever form: documents, objects, recorded memories as well as buildings and sites."

The objectives of the organisation are:

- i. To raise public consciousness of the value of cultural heritage.
- ii. To encourage and assist the cultural heritage activities of member organisations.
- iii. To initiate and support cultural heritage activities not already covered by member organisations.

One of the aims of BMACHO is to bring the various bodies into closer contact, to encourage them to work more closely together and to provide a combined voice on matters of importance within the heritage sector.

MEMBERSHIP The following organisations are members of BMACHO: Blue Mountains City Library, Blue Mountains Historical Society Inc., Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc., Blue Mountains Tourism Limited, Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute, Cudgegong Museums Group, Friends of Everglades, Friends of Norman Lindsay Gallery, Glenbrook & District Historical Society, Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society Inc, Lillianfels Blue Mountains Resort, Lithgow Mining Museum, Lithgow Regional Library – Local Studies, Lithgow Small Arms Factory Museum, Mid Western Regional Council Library, Mt Tomah Botanic Gardens, Mt Victoria and District Historical Society Inc., Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine History Society (including Mt Wilson Turkish Bath House Museum), Mudgee Historical Society, Mudgee Regional Library, National Trust of Australia (NSW) - Blue Mountains Branch (including Woodford Academy), National Trust of Australia (NSW) - Lithgow Branch), Scenic World – Blue Mountains Limited, Springwood & District Historical Society Inc., Springwood Historians, Two Centuries of Elegance, Valley Heights Locomotive Depot and Museum, Zig Zag Railway. The following are individual members: Ms Wendy Carlson, Ray Christison, Ms Pamela Hubert, Associate Professor Ian Jack, John Leary OAM, John Low, Professor Barrie Reynolds, and Dr Peter Stanbury OAM.

COMMITTEE The committee for 2008-9 is: John Leary, (president) Ian Jack (vice president), Barrie Reynolds (secretary and public officer), Peter Stanbury, (treasurer), Florence Smart, Ray Christison, Pamela Hubert and Dick Morony.

AFFILIATIONS BMACHO is a member of the Royal Australian Historical Society Inc.

HERITAGE is BMACHO's official newsletter.