

HERITAGE

NEWSLETTER OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION
OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS

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HIGHWAY HERITAGE PRESERVED

As motorists well know, oil companies and their petrol prices are popular whipping posts but in the past some have been conscious of our heritage.

The restored Pointsman's Cottage at Glenbrook today, probably owes its preservation to the Australian oil company Ampol.

The Pointsman's Cottage at Glenbrook was built in 1871 and became the station master's house in 1879.

It was built to house the pointsman who changed the points to the siding on the railway's single line.

Thomas Hall was the first stationmaster. He immigrated to Australia on March 29, 1856 at the age of nine with his parents as sponsored immigrants aboard the ship Ben Nevis. He married Katherine (Katie) Davidson. They had a family of ten children.

Although New South Wales' first train line reached Parramatta in 1855 crossing the Blue Mountains proved an engineering challenge.



The outhouses of the 19th century were built to last.



The first railway line across the Blue Mountains was built between 1863 and 1867. Glenbrook was the first railway station on the line.

The engineer, John Whitton, wanted to excavate a tunnel but limited funds meant he had to design a zig zag at Lapstone with a sandstone viaduct over Knapsack Gully.

The line opened to Weatherboard (Wentworth Falls) on July 13, 1867.

After the 1913 deviation of the rail line was complete the stationmaster continued to live in the house.

In 1926 the Main Roads Board built the Western Highway on the old railway bed. In 1927 Charlie Forrester bought the Pointsman's Cottage and opened up the Glenbrook Garage. There were many owners over the years.

Ampol then bought it having many tenants. It was restored in 1996 when the new service station was developed. The property is now owned by Caltex.

The nearby Macquarie Street Store which is now Jim Aitken's Real Estate served refreshments to train travellers. A house on the corner of Euroka Road and Park Street owned by the Hamment family was rented out to railway workers.

Source for text courtesy Pamela Pascoe, Glenbrook Historical Society Inc. Photographs John Leary, OAM

ORDER OF AUSTRALIA AWARD

Well known, Blue Mountains archaeologist, Dr Siobhan Lavelle has been awarded the Order of Australia Medal which was announced in the Queens Birthday Honours list last month.

The award is for service to historic archaeology and heritage conservation, particularly the preservation of colonial roads and cemeteries.



From the president's pen.....

GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS TO BENEFIT OUR HERITAGE

Those interested in our heritage, both professionals and amateur enthusiasts, have long been concerned about the apathy of government at all levels. It is fair to say, has paid only lip service to Australia's heritage.

Funding for the preservation and conservation of the natural, built and cultural heritage has been abysmal when compared with other fields of endeavour in our community.

Recent federal government announcements of grants to benefit heritage projects, however, have been most encouraging, not only in the amount of funding, but in the obvious attempts by bureaucrats to better understand and accommodate the needs of the heritage sector.

The need to maintain employment has been an objective of all political parties, but credit needs to be given to those who have ensured that heritage has been afforded portion of the government's largesse.

It is to be hoped that this direction will continue long past the global economic crisis.

One thing that will help this to occur is that historical societies and others in the heritage sector need to prepare well developed programs so that when grant applications are announced, there is no last minute inadequately prepared proposal going forward.

Unfortunately while the federal government is acknowledging the importance of our heritage by linking funding to grants to keep

people in the workforce the state government appears to have given those in the heritage sector a smart slap in the face by watering down of legislation which in the past gave some protection to our heritage.

Significant amendments to the NSW Heritage Act which have now been enacted without effective consultation with the heritage sector tip the balance strongly towards destruction through development rather than preservation and conservation.

Under the amended act, the role of history and archaeology in heritage is threatened and there has been a dilution of statutory protection of heritage in a variety of ways.

For the first time there will be no requirement for a historian to be a member of the State Heritage Council.

'Minister's power to remove items from State Heritage Register'

There will be a shift of balance from the Heritage Council to the Minister for Planning who will have the power to remove items from the State Heritage Register.

Heritage items listed on Local Environmental Plans will be subject to review by assessment panels and regional panels, with powers overriding those of local government areas. There will be a change to definition of archaeological 'relics' under the Act.

Heritage has always been a thorn in the side of property developers and these amendments are very much in favour of the developer albeit some earlier deals might require retrospective legislation to keep them out of the courts.

If ever there was a need for ministerial responsibility for heritage to be separated from planning and/or other functions such as the arts or environment now is the time.

The relevance of having heritage included as the poor relation in a portfolio for planning coherently for future development is beyond comprehension.

As Chris Upton writes in *The Millstone* newsletter of the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society, "there could be no better example of conflict of interest". There needs to be stand-alone heritage ministry.

BMACHO has decided to develop a strategy for ensuring a better understanding by government at all levels and within the community of the treatment of heritage. As part of this strategy it is proposed to conduct public forums to allow political leaders to outline future policies

In adopting this strategy, BMACHO recognises the outstanding efforts of bodies like the Royal Australian Historical Society and National Trust of Australia over many decades.

**John Leary, OAM - president,
Blue Mountains Association of
Cultural Heritage Organisations**

BMACHO HAS NEW TREASURER

BMACHO has accepted the offer of Mrs Kathie McMahon to become treasurer. Dr Peter Stanbury has been filling the role after not seeking re-election at this year's annual

general meeting, but will be working overseas for the next 3 months.

Kathie a long time member of Kurrajong-Comelroy Historical

Society, was elected to BMACHO's management committee earlier this year.

Her family links to Kurrajong go back to the early 1800s.

Volunteer groups to receive grants

Five local volunteer heritage and environmental organisations will receive funding under the Grants to Voluntary Environment and Heritage Organisations (GVEO) program.

Federal member for Macquarie, Bob Debus has announced the successful groups which are:

- * Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Historical Society Inc \$1500,

- * Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations Inc (BMACHO) \$2300,

- * Zig Zag Railway Cooperative Ltd \$3600

- * The City of Greater Lithgow Mining Museum Inc \$2300,

- * Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc \$5000 pa for 3 years.

Mr Debus said volunteer organisations that help protect and conserve Australia's unique environment and heritage have received almost \$1.5 million in federal government grants – doubling the amount received in 2007-08 round.

"The funding made available under the program, benefited 184 environmental and 65 heritage organisations nationally.

"The funds are provided for administration costs to ensure that groups can use more of their budget to achieve their aims of conserving and protecting Australia's natural environment and historic heritage.

"In these difficult times we need to support the vital work of volunteer organisations, who are working to protect some of Australia's greatest assets – our unique environment and heritage, and ultimately this is in every Australian's best interest," Mr Debus said.

JENOLAN CAVES MEDAL MYSTERY

Pictured at right is an unusual medallion from Jenolan Caves and was probably a tourist piece.

Scratched into one surface is the date, 1913, and the medallion appears to be made from an Australian or English silver threepence of that period.

The medallion was acquired by its present owner from an Australian coin dealer in the 1990s. Jenolan colleagues have a memory of similar medallions but are unable at present to provide any further information. It would be great to learn whether any other examples are still held in private collections.

Do any of our readers know the history of these Jenolan medallions and why they were produced? Does anybody still have one of them?

BMACHO is most grateful to Peter Lane of Adelaide for bringing this medallion to our notice and particularly for his excellent photographs.



Face side, about twice actual size.



Obverse side

BMACHO TO PRODUCE PUBLICATIONS JOURNAL

Dr Peter Rickwood, president of the Blue Mountains Historical Society has proposed to BMACHO that consideration be given to publishing a journal of referenced articles relating to the Blue Mountains.

These would be articles not sufficiently brief for newsletters or necessarily likely to be published in the RAHS Journal.

At BMACHO's management committee's July meeting it was decided to approve in principle the proposal to develop such a journal to be published electronically to a dedicated website.

The refereed journal will be published annually to include subjects pertaining to cultural heritage of the Greater Blue Mountains and neighbouring areas.

This new service will be available free of charge to all those seriously interested in the history of the region. It is anticipated the first volume will be published in early 2010.

A limited number of hard copies will be printed for deposit in the NSW State, National Library of Australia and local libraries.

Dr Rickwood has accepted the position of inaugural editor and an editorial committee to advise and assist the editor has been appointed. Dr Ian Jack, John Leary, Prof Barrie Reynolds, Dr Peter Stanbury and Dr Peter Rickwood have accepted positions on the committee. An invitation is to be extended to Dr Carol Liston of the University of Western Sydney to also be a member of this group.

THE BURNING MISTS OF TIME

"The Burning Mists of Time" is the fascinating story of the establishment of the town of Katoomba in the Blue Mountains of NSW, including the history of the Scenic Railway.

This book launched last month, was written and compiled by Philip Hammon and Dr Philip Pells. Philip Hammon is managing director, Scenic World, Blue Mountains and Dr Philip Pells, CE principal of Pells Consulting, Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering and Adjunct Professor of Civil Engineering at UNSW.

The book traces the people who lived here in the late 1800s, the pioneering developers who were drawn by the world's richest oil shale deposits and associated coal seams, and the roles of those people and their works in the rise of Katoomba to touristic fame.

To provide background to the central story, and to help in understanding the motivations and limitations of our central characters, it also describes the society in which this all happened, the aboriginal influences, and the bureaucratic and financial systems within which the developments had to take place.

The technical descriptions of the amazing infrastructure needed to recover the rich oil shale from the vastness of the Jamieson and Megalong Valleys, are written to be understood by the non-technical person; Cecil will be your friend for life.

The research needed to bring this book to publication has been undertaken over many years, both by professional researchers, and amateur dirt scratchers. The latter ask the questions; "why is this here?" and the former try to help answer them.

Envisioning the 19th century engineering solutions from the scant remains of abandoned worn cables, and eroded earthworks, takes a wealth of experience, in wire rope workings, steam haulage, mining practices, underground and surface surveying, and even pony management.



Phillip and Philip have put all this together in a very readable and well illustrated book, with many previously unpublished historic photographs, with sketches and diagrams to clearly explain what was a quite complex operation.

Those purchasing a copy of the book at Scenic World, will receive a presentation box containing a piece of oil shale and a souvenir box of matches, with which you can test the claim that Katoomba's oil shale was the highest quality in the world by setting fire to it in the privacy and safety of your own home.

For the serious researcher, the book has a comprehensive index, and is filled with references to the sources of the information that have been gathered.

For information that has yet to be clarified, or photographs that have yet to be found, or explanations that have yet to be made, there will be a page on Scenic World's website, which will provide updated information to keep this book the living research tool that it is intended to be.

Contributions or corrections from readers are welcomed, and will be applied to the appropriate chapter headings, or if a new strand of investigation emerges, a new chapter can be created for the next edition with appropriate credits to the contributors, of course.

The book is also available from Megalong Books, Leura at \$60 r.r.p

Pictured from left is Dr Philip Pells, Professor Ian Jack who launched the book and Philip Hammon.

Photograph courtesy Dr Peter Stanbury, OAM

Everglades get works funding

With a contribution of \$112,000 from the Australian government's Jobs Fund, National Trust of Australia will upgrade the walking paths and carry out repairs to the interior of Everglades at Leura and the Paul Sorensen designed gardens.

Announcing the grant the Member for Macquarie, Bob Debus said, "Everglades includes one of Australia's foremost heritage gardens and this new funding will ensure the visitors will have improved access to its spectacular surroundings".

Constructed in the 1930s by Danish-born landscape gardener Paul Sorensen in conjunction with owner Henri van de Velde, Everglades gardens is Australia's most spectacular inter-war period garden and has received acclaim from garden lovers worldwide.

More Darwiniana in the Blue Mountains

As is well known 2009 is the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of the *Origin of the Species*. Rather more obscurely, although maybe not for trivia buffs, 2009 also marks the 278th year since his famous grandfather Erasmus was born.

Erasmus, in his time, was just as significant a thinker. His life is celebrated in the literature and on a memorial tablet in Lichfield Cathedral, Staffordshire.

Of some pride for residents of the Blue Mountains was the 150th anniversary of Charles Darwin's journey through the region.

That event took place 23 years ago; in 1986 in mid January and was not forgotten by locals. It was celebrated by Blackheath Rotary and Edgar Penzig who lead walkers through the hamlet of Blackheath, along Pope's Glen Nature Trail to Horseshoe Falls and on to the lookout at Govett's leap, followed by a celebratory dinner at the local pub.

Darwin noted in his diary on January 18, 1836: *'So early in the day the gulf was filled with a thin blue haze, which, although destroying the general effect, added to the apparent depth of the forest below, from the country on which we were standing.'*

The day before, on January 17, Darwin had visited the Wentworth Falls.

He wrote: *'.....walked mile & 1/2 to see Cascade: most magnificent astounding & unique view, small valley not lead to expect such scene.....Certainly most stupendous cliffs I have ever seen.'*



Mayor, Peter Quirk, speaking to the assembled 'friends of Charles Darwin'

This is the third in a series of articles contributed by Dr Peter Stanbury, OAM a committee member of BMACHO and board member UMAC (International Committee for University Museums)

It is to be hoped that the site of the original inn, the Weatherboard, which gave its name to the area before it was changed to Wentworth Falls, will soon be similarly recognised, upgraded and signposted, for at present it is sadly neglected and unrecognised, even by locals. Darwin lunched at the Weatherboard and left his horse there while visiting the falls.

Preparations for an appropriate way for locals to celebrate were taken in hand by a local artist of renown, a Latvian, Renis Zusters, and a staff member of the Macleay Museum at the University of Sydney, which in 1985 had produced an exhibition and associated publication, *The Blue Mountains; Grand Adventure for All*.

Their contribution was to physically re-open with machetes the path along Jamieson Creek to Wentworth Falls that had become overgrown and impassable.

They invited the then mayor of the Blue Mountains City Council, Peter Quirk, to inspect their work and asked him to officially commemorate the occasion.

He agreed, and a brass plaque was installed bearing the simple inscription: *Charles Darwin passed this way in 1836, remembered by his friends in 1986*. The plaque was situated on a large rock just before the "astounding, stupendous" view

that so surprised Darwin. (At the time of writing, some judicious pruning is necessary to preserve this surprise.)

The ceremony actually took place a day late, on January 18, which being a Saturday allowed a group of biologists, locals and well wishers to attend.



Charles Darwin (Tim Elliot) surprises the audience

After the plaque had been affixed and the mayor had made a speech, three cheers burst from the audience. Unknown to them this was the signal for a local actor, Tim Elliot, to spring from the bush dressed as Darwin to quote his thoughts on the discoveries of the day.

Among those attending were Frank and Jan Nicholas, whose well researched book, *Charles Darwin in Australia*, was in preparation.

Renis and his wife, Venita, invited the participants to lunch in their home above the walk, after which Frank gave a lecture illustrated by Conrad Marten's paintings of the area.

BOILING FOR OIL - A BLUE MOUNTAINS BUSH INDUSTRY

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 creation of the exhibition now nearing completion has used 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.

During research by the curatorium, early film footage has been discovered of a little known industry in the region, that of eucalyptus oil extraction.

John and June Deane of Blackheath who loaned the film now on DVD to researchers at BMWHI, are documenting the lives of June's father Colin Ralph who made the film and was involved in the distilling process. June and John accepted HERITAGE's invitation to write this article, 'Boiling for Oil'. The images on this page are taken from a 16mm documentary made by Colin Ralph.

Oil collected from the leaves of the eucalypt, the ubiquitous tree of the Australian bush, has been used for a very long time.

The first European settlers learned of its medicinal properties from indigenous people and it was one of the first natural raw products exported from Australia.

Extracting the oil did not require masses of equipment or manpower and in the 1940s field stills were built across the continent.

A number of industrial sites existed round Oberon where local workers could fill drums with the crude distillate confident in the knowledge that agents from Sydney refineries would want to buy their product.

Such an industry involved harvesting of relatively young growth from trees, a process that could continue almost indefinitely as after three years the regrowth would supply another harvest.



Harvesting the eucalyptus leaves

The branches were trimmed and the leaves trampled down into a large vat such as an old water tank, a heavy lid swung into place and then sealed with mud worked from any nearby creek and clamped to be steam-tight.

Steam was usually generated in a separate boiler then fed into the vat and as the leaves were cooked, vapour rose to condensing pipes attached to the tank and was led away to be cooled.

Again the local creek proved useful, supplying a handy source of cooling for the pipes.

At the end of the run a tea-coloured liquid of water and oil flowed out into collecting tins where it settled and, because the water was heavier, the oil was left floating on the surface.

Finally this precious product was skimmed off and transferred to drums to be sent to the refiner.

Eucalyptus oil is still a valuable product and its uses are many and varied though its production is no longer carried out by the colourful characters that worked on it in the '40s.



Filling the boiling vats

Water conservation projects

Three National Trust projects have been successful in obtaining \$140,000 in federal government funding for water savings initiatives. Woodford Academy, (\$41,000) Everglades at Leura (\$49,600) and the Norman Lindsay Gallery (\$50,000) will benefit from the program.

At Woodford Academy the funding will help recommission the building's original well, dating back to the mid 1800s by directing rainwater from the roof to the underground storage. Historically the well's water is significant for the property. When Woodford was an inn for travellers, people would gather in the courtyard around the well to water themselves and their horses.

The new water tanks at Everglades and Norman Lindsay Gallery will provide for rainwater to be used for gardens and bathrooms. The water supplies at the three properties will provide a reserve for bushfire fighting.

RESTORATION OF NORMAN LINDSAY'S SEAHORSE FOUNTAIN

National Trust of Australia (NSW) is seeking financial support from the public to restore the Seahorse Fountain and garden sculptures in the gardens of Norman Lindsay gallery and museum at Faulconbridge

"Lindsay's legacy is a wonderful cultural asset, a gift to current and future generations," says Norman Lindsay Gallery manager, Amanda Trevillion

"The garden is an outdoor gallery, Lindsay's sculptures and fountains feature satyrs, nymphs, sirens and sphinx, created out of his love of classical mythology and cement.

"Some date from as early as 1913 and are almost 100 years old and very fragile. Our aim is to keep them preserved, with maintenance and conservation work, long into the future."

The Seahorse Fountain, one of 15 garden artworks, is the main feature of the garden and the most photographed view of the gallery.

The continued battle with tree roots and the aging cement of the pool walls and floor necessitates major restoration work should be carried out urgently in order to preserve this important Lindsay creation.

Other garden artworks have been subject to weather, making conservation imperative in the short term to preserve the integrity of these cherished artefacts.



Norman Lindsay and his Seahorse Fountain c 1960

Everybody benefits from the wonderful grounds - artists groups use the grounds for sketching, painting and photography, visitors enjoy picnics in the garden with family and friends.

The garden sculptures are very much part of the overall experience when visiting the Gallery, however visitation fees only cover a portion of the costs involved in maintaining such a substantial gallery, and it is hoped supporters will help with the shortfall.

The Trust is committed to our cultural heritage and to ensuring the fascinating stories of our heritage are alive and well for future generations.



Inside Norman Lindsay Gallery

Chinese in the Blue Mountains

The first Chinese are believed to have crossed the Blue Mountains in 1855 on their way to the New South gold rushes, to places like Hill End.

The first reference to Chinese settlers in the area was an article in the *Blue Mountains Echo* in 1891 about Ah Poy.

They generally established themselves as market gardeners.

Most are believed to have left the area in the 1930s and 1940s when bigger market gardening co-operatives began cornering the market. No Chinese names show

up in the Blue Mountains cemeteries.

However, a number of Chinese families are known to have fled Sydney in 1942 because they were concerned about Japanese invasion. These included the Mar family and also the families of CP Ting, SC Ting, CC Chen, D.Chia. The Mar family also had relatives who travelled further west as far as Tinga.

This item was prepared by Sophie Couchman, La Trobe University. Sources used to compile this piece: Colin Slade, 'Investigating the Chinese community', *Locality: Bulletin of the Community History Program*, vol 4 no.2, July-August 2004; Personal communication with Colin Slade, July 2004.

SECRETARY MEETS CHIEF PLANNER

BMACHO's secretary, Professor Barrie Reynolds, for some time has been regularly meeting with Blue Mountains City Council's head of planning, Andy Turner to exchange information on current heritage activities.

Barrie Reynolds advised a recent meeting of BMACHO's management committee that he was most encouraged by the positive actions now being undertaken by council's planning staff responsible for heritage issues.

Council has appointed two heritage consultants: one is working on development applications matters and the other has just completed a report to Blue Mountains City Council on Aboriginal heritage.

Work is progressing on the computerisation of all heritage sites in the Blue Mountains, but completion is not expected for some time.

Andy Turner said his staff were still examining BMACHO's proposal for the re-establishment of a community advisory heritage committee

Council is also examining the possibility of an application for JobStart funding for heritage site projects which involves council providing 50 percent funding.

FOOTNOTES

Dick Morony, secretary of Springwood Historical Society Inc sent **HERITAGE** this piece which is worth republishing.

"The time has come when we must incite readers to violence against all authors - certainly all historians - who do not provide a decent minimum of footnotes. (A place should also be made in the quicklime for the carcasses of publishers who think that footnotes hurt sales.)" — John Kenneth Galbraith, 1957, in a book review of "How to become an International Swindler", quoted by Frank Partnoy: The Match King. Mr Partnoy took Galbraith's advice - his book has around 220 pages of text and 26 pages of notes.

VOLUNTEER VACANCIES ADVERTISING

Advertising job vacancies is often difficult in small organisations.

BMACHO is now offering member organisations the opportunity to use three of its facilities for this purpose free of charge.

Volunteers are often needed for specific events or regular guiding at museums or properties etc.

Entries for specific event volunteers would be included in BMACHO's monthly calendar of events. Organisations need to add an extra line to the information supplied for promotion of the event. This needs to be sent to Dick Morony at richardmorony@optusnet.com.au.

This would then automatically appear on the website.

For societies attempting to fill job vacancies with specific ongoing responsibilities such as treasurer, secretary or newsletter editor etc., entries in the newsletter and website for member organisations will be accepted.

Member organisations need to provide a single line entry which would only include the designated position, name of society and the phone/e-mail address for further information. For the website these entries should be submitted to Barrie Reynolds at barrie.r@bigpond.net.au and the newsletter entries John Leary at johnnanette@optusnet.com.au.

Respondents to advertisements must contact the organisation seeking the assistance as BMACHO will not take any responsibility for the applicants or their selection.

Bursaries for the "Working Spaces 3 for Museum Volunteers" Conference

M&G NSW is offering a number of bursaries for the *Working Spaces for Museum Volunteers* Conference, hosted by Museums Australia – Lachlan Chapter. Funded through M&G NSW VIM Grant Program, these bursaries will contribute to registration, meals, accommodation and travel costs for the three-day conference, to be held in Galong from Friday to Sunday October 16-18, 2009.

The conference aims to provide volunteers with "hands-on" practical experience on topics such as storage conservation solutions, oral history, working with the media and conserving old photographs to name a few.

For more information on the conference and venue, or to download a registration form, visit the *Working Spaces 3 for Museum Volunteers* website <http://www.lachlanmuseums.com.au/>

"Currency Lasses and Beyond" – Women of Australia's Past

The Blue Mountains Family History Society is holding a seminar on Saturday, August 8, 2009 at the end of National Family History Week.

It will be held in the Springwood Baptist Church Hall, 313 Macquarie Road, Springwood. A program/registration form can be downloaded from the BMFHS website at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nswbmfhs/>

The subjects will be: Currency Lasses; The convict women of the "Elizabeth" 1828; London Immigration Committee's female immigration of the 1830; The sources available for researching the work and roles of women from early 19th century and beyond; Immigration from late 19th century/early 20th century – the affects on women and how they assimilated; Recital of Australian Bush Poetry; and Women's roles during the wars, since Federation.

THE GOLDEN GUMTREE POSTAL RUN



The Blue Mountains National Park this year will celebrate 50 years since it was gazetted as a national park.

The Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute with Blue Mountains City Council, the Blue Mountains National Parks Service and Blue Mountains Conservation Society are planning an event centring on the more than 100 eucalypt species

that occur in the World Heritage area.

The celebration hopes to engender in school students a sense of place, a positive connection with the natural environment and cultural landscapes, and to develop knowledge, skills and understanding that will foster responsible stewardship of their local environment and the earth.

The community event "The Golden Gum Tree Postal Run" is to be staged in two parts.

As part of stage 1, "Bush Rooms" have been established at local schools, or in the national park or council reserves where students are observing and monitoring the daily weather and keeping a diary on the natural events occurring in their bush patch.

The diaries will provide the stories and information on plants and animals found in the "Bush Rooms". This information will be used for the creation of postcards to be collected during the "postal run"

"The Golden Gum Tree Postal Run" (stage 2) is a walk in September from Penrith to Lithgow via each school in towns adjoining the Blue Mountains National Park. A group of experienced adult bushwalkers led by Wyn Jones will endeavour to visit each school collecting and delivering postcards made by the children.

Photograph of Eucalyptus trees in Blue Mountains National Park, Blackheath by John Leary, OAM.

BMACHO's secretary visits Mt Wilson meeting

"I always enjoy going to Mount Wilson for the general meetings of the historical society. There is always a good turn-out, a friendly atmosphere and interesting people to meet. The meeting on Saturday, June 27 was a good example.

"An audience of about 50 Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine members, together with a sprinkling of people from further afield came to hear the mid-year report of the society and then a fascinating talk on the unlikely subject of 'Trees of History and Romance'. Of this more anon.

"The half-yearly report discussed the various activities (tours, exhibitions, working bees etc.) in which all societies engage.

"It was encouraging to note the success of Mt Wilson in obtaining grants, both to help towards the cost of replacing the roof of the Turkish Bath building, and for general purposes.

"The autumn market held on Anzac Day weekend proved particularly successful and raised over \$5,000. A commendable result.

"Many people will recall the excellent and very professional exhibition the society put together a few years ago on the early surveyor, Charles Scrivener. This was most successful at the time and I was always a little disappointed that it did not continue to be shown for the benefit of the public.

"I was therefore especially pleased to learn that there is strong interest from surveyor groups in borrowing the society's exhibition for display at venues in Canberra and Sydney, on the occasion of the centenaries of the ACT-NSW border survey and the early survey of Canberra itself.

"The guest speaker, Michael Pembroke, spoke on his ongoing interest in trees and particularly on his forthcoming book on the subject. Michael not only explained this

interest in all aspects of the 21 different species of trees, botanical and cultural, that he had selected but also outlined his experiences as an author in the preparation of the book. The illustrations by Libby Raines are delightful and add greatly to Michael's text.

"The book is due to appear in August and I do hope that other societies, both historical and garden, will invite this accomplished writer to speak at their own meetings. They would not be disappointed.

"On a more mundane level, I spoke about the work of BMACHO and the progress that is being made. This is covered in our own newsletters."

Barrie Reynolds



H.A. MacLeod Morgan and the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations

by Associate Professor Ian Jack, president, Royal Australian Historical Society and vice president, Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations



(This is an abbreviated version of the presidential address to the Royal Australian Historical Society on April 28, 2009)

When I was attending a meeting of the executive of the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations, one of my fellow members, Florence Smart from Mount Wilson, handed me a small box of papers to add to the archives of the Royal Australian Historical Society. This box had been found among the effects of her sister, Wilga Smart, who died in August 2008 at the age of 85. Wilga had kept these papers for 44 years throughout her migrations from Australia to America, then to England and ultimately back to New South Wales. Just as Florence had found them after Wilga's death, so Wilga had found them in 1964 on the death of her fiancé, seven weeks before she was to be married in Mount Wilson.

Wilga was an expert plant propagator, first in the Smart family nursery at Eastwood and after 1946 at Carisbrook on Mount Irvine until her parents died. She then returned to Sydney and propagated first for Cohen's nursery at Turramurra and then for Tomkin's nursery at Enfield. She had already been collecting books, particularly about the Blue Mountains, and she joined the Royal Australian Historical Society.¹

Her fiancé was president of the RAHS and an outstanding research scholar of the Blue Mountains and the Hawkesbury. His name was MacLeod Morgan. Despite Morgan's distinction, there is no easy way of getting to know this quietly-spoken man who died too soon.² When I did get to know him, Harold Arthur MacLeod Morgan has turned out to share my own enthusiasms and priorities in ways which I had not anticipated and, more important, his legacy is lasting and substantial.

He was ahead of his time in writing localized history both from a wide range of contemporary evidence and from an intimate knowledge of the area. His long-term interest in the Putty Road stemmed from his wartime experience as a major at Singleton army base, at the northern end of the old Bulga Road.³ He had a passion not just for geography but for the evidence of the built environment: he was deeply concerned with the challenges facing Australia's cultural heritage in the 1950s and 1960s.

At the same time, he recognized the critical value of local historical societies and, along with Doug Bowd, the formidable secretary of the Hawkesbury Historical Society, he was responsible for the first major meeting which brought together the societies affiliated to the RAHS.

Although the president was too ill to attend the first conference in July 1961 and the chair was taken by Rae Else-Mitchell,⁴ it had been MacLeod Morgan at his first meeting of the council as president, in March 1961, who had declared as his policy priority the organisation of: an initial week-end congress of representatives [from affiliated societies] to 'show' them History House, and to discuss the mutual problems in the operations of our and their societies.⁵

MacLeod Morgan's concern for local historical societies and heritage issues seems first to have taken practical public expression in the mid-1950s. In 1955 he was elected a founding member of the Blue Mountains History House management committee, which managed Tarella at Wentworth

Falls, presented to the Blue Mountains Historical Society by Beryl McLaughlin.

From 1957 until 1961 he was a vigorous vice-president of the Blue Mountains society.⁶

He was a foundation member of the Hawkesbury Historical Society when it was founded in 1956. Although he was not present at the inaugural meeting in September 1956, that meeting invited him to be the society's first guest lecturer and he duly delivered the inaugural lecture on October 19, talking about George Meares Countess Bowen.

He figured in Hawkesbury's first full annual programme in 1957, talking on Bells Line of Road, and a MacLeod Morgan lecture was an annual event until 1961. In September 1957, he was elected to the Hawkesbury Society's council and served conscientiously for five years until in 1962 the constitution was altered to eliminate ordinary councillors.⁷

He was one of those who paid for the set of *Historical Records of Australia*, the first major enterprise of the new society, donated by them to the municipal library of Windsor for the greater benefit of the neighbourhood. He was the judge for the inaugural local historical essay competition in 1957 and led his first excursion of many to Kurrajong and Mount Tomah in 1958, followed by one to the Colo Valley in 1959 and one to Lithgow in 1960. He and Doug Bowd between them launched the public appeal in 1960 to restore the remarkable gravestone erected in St Matthew's cemetery in Windsor by Governor Macquarie in memory of Andrew Thompson.⁸

It was in conjunction with Doug Bowd that MacLeod Morgan inaugurated the affiliated societies' conference in the following year.

Hawkesbury's foundation treasurer, who served with MacLeod Morgan both on the Hawkesbury Society's council and on the small committee planning the sesquicentenary of the five Macquarie towns in 1959, recalls him well after fifty years, with his trim person, reticent manner, gentle, dry sense of humour and punctilious regularity.⁹

This all helped to give something of the flavour of the man and his motivation. Although many of his energies were directed towards the Hawkesbury and the Blue Mountains, he was also by 1963 a member of at least three other country societies, Illawarra, Lithgow and Nepean, as well as Hunters Hill, Parramatta and Manly.¹⁰

MacLeod Morgan did not live in the Mountains nor on the Hawkesbury. A bachelor, he lived with his mother in Cremorne and Neutral Bay until she died in 1961. Mrs Morgan had accompanied him to historical meetings and an eye-witness told me that 'she seemed to be guarding him'. After her death, he moved to a flat in Mosman.¹¹ So his contributions to history in Wentworth Falls and Windsor, in Wollongong and Emu Plains,

involved an indefatigable zeal for travel.

In the box which I was given by Florence Smart, there are his last two diaries, for 1963 and 1964. They show how virtually every weekend was occupied with historical excursions or preparations for excursions. The diaries do not survive before 1963, but they would surely have shown that in the 1950s he was combining this outdoor activity with painstaking research in the Mitchell Library, which at that time contained also the state archives.

The evidence for this impressive documentary research is in the thorough annotation of his eight major articles, all published between 1956 and 1959, as well as four substantial, unpublished but fully footnoted papers which are in the manuscript collection of the RAHS.¹²

The substance of these articles was aired in lectures given to local societies, usually but not always prior to publication,¹³ but it is significant that MacLeod Morgan sought out the *JRAHS* and *The Australian Genealogist* as his means of communication with the wider circle of those interested in the nineteenth-century history of Australia.

Alongside his commitments to local historical groups, MacLeod Morgan threw himself energetically into the running of both the Society of Australian Genealogists and the RAHS. He joined SAG as a life member in November 1954. He was elected to the council of SAG at the end of 1956, succeeded Colin Berckelman as director of SAG excursions in 1957 and became joint director of lectures in the following year.¹⁴ At the same time, he was treasurer of the RAHS from 1955 until 1959, and in 1960 he took over the treasurership of SAG, where he also served as assistant treasurer in 1962 and 1963.¹⁵

Now accepting the position of treasurer was very natural, for MacLeod Morgan was an accountant and a company secretary. His interest in the Illawarra Historical Society came from his position as secretary to coal companies serving Port Kembla steel works and he was flying to Melbourne regularly in 1963 and 1964 to attend the board meetings of Broken Hill Associated Smelters.¹⁶ Like many good historians, he did not have a university degree and was the best sort of dedicated amateur.

But while he freely gave his professional services as an accountant to both SAG and the RAHS, he had wider leadership ambitions.



Figure 1 Macleod Morgan (centre) opening the Hawkesbury Museum. Courtesy of Hawkesbury Historical Society

In 1960 he became vice president of SAG and continued in that role when he was elected to the presidency of the RAHS in 1961.

MacLeod Morgan had a difficult year in 1961. He fell ill in May, had a major operation and was unable to attend the RAHS council meetings for four consecutive months. And just as he was convalescing in August, his mother died.

His father was dead and MacLeod's only sibling, a sister, lived in Canada. A relapse into ill-health in October 1961 is very understandable, but before his doctor restricted his activities, he had signed the letter appointing Alex Chisholm, his predecessor as president, to the part-time salaried position of general secretary of the RAHS, which had been vacant for six years.¹⁷ This far-sighted action led directly to the appointment of Harry Harper on a full-time basis in 1963 and lasting changes to the running of the RAHS. Mari Metzke is an unwitting part of MacLeod Morgan's legacy to the society.

In November 1961 MacLeod Morgan seemed to recover his health and at once took a leading role in brokering useful contacts among historical societies. Under the guise of an excursion organized by the Nepean District Historical Society, an interesting group of local societies, including Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury and Lithgow, met at Glenroy near Hartley. MacLeod Morgan attended, wearing as his principal hat the presidency of the RAHS. When 'proposals were made for some joint association of the represented bodies for advancing historical interests', MacLeod Morgan assured the delegates of the Royal's interest and asked to be kept informed.¹⁸

OLD MAPS

A workshop is being planned by BMACHO to look at various aspects of old maps. The activity will include advice on how historians extract information from maps, who has old maps, the proper techniques for restoring damaged maps, and methods of storing and cataloguing maps etc. Details of this workshop will be announced late in the year.



Figure 2 The inscription on Macleod Morgan's gravemarker erected by Wilga Smart at St Stephen's Anglican graveyard, Kurrajong. Photograph by Ian Jack April 26, 2009.

This was quite separate from the annual conference, although clearly related to that meeting four months earlier. Although the Glenroy initiative of 1961 did not immediately prosper, it did encourage the same local societies and two others to meet again in Springwood in March 1962. The agenda was now more specific, announcing the aim of sharing speakers, arranging excursions and generally assisting each other.¹⁹

MacLeod Morgan was certainly aware of this meeting: he signed the minutes of the Hawkesbury Historical Society which recorded it. Although this initiative did not lead anywhere in particular in the 1960s, it bears a strong resemblance to the creation forty-five years later of the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations. And at the Katoomba meeting in 2006 which created BMACHO I played the role which MacLeod Morgan had played at Glenroy on behalf of the RAHS.

Early in 1962 MacLeod Morgan was re-elected unopposed as president of the RAHS, with Rae Else-Mitchell as his vice-president. As president, Morgan had the great pleasure of opening the new Hawkesbury Historical Society's Museum in March 1962 and he was able to resume his successful excursions: those were the days when a drawcard visit to Kurrajong under MacLeod Morgan could bring out 100 members in two buses and numerous cars.

Early in 1963 a recurrence of illness prevented MacLeod Morgan from seeking re-election to the RAHS council in any capacity and he was

succeeded as president by Allan Bax, whom he had challenged successfully in 1961.¹ Although his interest in history did not abate, after February 1963 his only executive role in any society was his minor involvement with SAG as its assistant treasurer.

Instead his private life became much more impelling. He had been close to his mother. But she had died in 1961 and was buried in the cemetery of St Stephen's Anglican church outside Kurrajong in a grave which enjoys one of the great views of the Cumberland Plain from the mountain foothills. Her son's diaries of 1963 and 1964 show an equally strong absorption in his relationship with Wilga Smart, who lived and worked in Sydney, and his friendship with her family in Mount Irvine and her associates in Mount Wilson. As on so many weekends, he drove up to Mount Irvine on Friday, February 21; next day he and Wilga sent out wedding invitations; he came back to Manly on the Sunday.² When he did not appear for work on the Monday, his fiancée was informed and she found him quietly dead in his favourite armchair. They were to have been married in Mount Wilson seven weeks later.³

MacLeod Morgan was buried in a grave adjacent to his mother's at St Stephen's, Kurrajong. I am glad to have been impelled through the tragic story which brought a box of his papers into my hands to have made the acquaintance of Harold Arthur MacLeod Morgan, historian and gentleman, a progenitor of BMACHO. Footnotes for this paper appear on the next page.

HA MacLeod Morgan -- References

¹ Florence Smart, 'Wilga Smart', *Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society Newsletter*, 19, February 2009, 15-16; Florence Smart and Michael Smart, eulogy at Wilga Smart's funeral, 11 August 2008; Wilga Smart, 'A Moment not Forgotten', *Mt Wilson Historical Society [Newsletter]*, 5, October 1999, 11.

² He was born on 20 March 1914 and died on 23 February 1964.³ Interview with Miss Lorna Campbell in Windsor, 18 April 2009.

⁴ Mari Metzke, 'Affiliated Societies of the RAHS', in James, ed., *Much Writing, Many Opinions*, 105.

⁵ RAHS Archives, Council Minute-Books, ser.1/14/11, 24 March 1961.

⁶ Alan Tierney, *Blue Mountains Historical Society: a Golden Jubilee History, 1946-1996*, Blue Mountains Historical Society, Wentworth Falls 1996, 32, 69.

⁷ Hawkesbury Historical Society, Minute-Book 1, 2, 3, 7, 12; Hawkesbury Historical Society, *Annual Report and Balance Sheet*, 1957-8, 1958-9, 1959-60, 1960-1, 1961-2, 1962-3.

⁸ *Oxbro: Journal of the Hawkesbury Historical Society*, 2, May 1957, 4; Hawkesbury Historical Society, Minute-Book 1, 32, 34, 48, 64, 88, 92, 99, 100, 120, 144.

⁹ Interview with Miss Lorna Campbell in Windsor, 19 April 2009.

¹⁰ H.A. MacLeod Morgan, Diary for 1963.

¹¹ RAHS, *Newsletter*, no.23, March 1964, 2; Morgan, Diary for 1964; interview with Miss Lorna Campbell in Windsor, 18 April 2009.

¹² RAHS, Manuscripts, Red M 252, 255.

¹³ MacLeod Morgan's first lecture to the Hawkesbury Historical Society in October 1956 was described in the minutes (7) as 'published in "The Australian Genealogist", September, 1956.'

¹⁴ *Australian Genealogist*, 7 ii, February 1955, 151; 8 vi, December 1956, 131, 166; 8 xi, March 1958, 294.

¹⁵ James, ed., *Much Writing, Many Opinions*, 8; *Descent*, 1 i, 1961, 30; 1 iii, 1962, 32; 1 iv, 1963, 32.

¹⁶ RAHS, *Newsletter*, no.23, March 1964, 2; *Sydney Morning Herald*, 24 February 1956, 22; Morgan, Diaries for 1963 and 1964.

¹⁷ RAHS Archives, Council Minute-Books, ser.1/14/11, letter 19 October 1961; James, ed., *Much Writing, Many Opinions*, 9.

¹⁸ RAHS Archives, Council Minute-Books, ser.1/14/11, 24 November 1961.

¹⁹ Hawkesbury Historical Society, Minute-Book 1, 134.

²⁰ RAHS Archives, Council Minute-Books, ser.1/14/11, 30 January, 27 April, 25 May 1962.

²¹ RAHS, *Newsletter*, no.23, March 1964, 3.

²² Morgan, Diary for 1964.

²³ Florence Smart and Michael Smart, eulogy at Wilga Smart's funeral, 11 August 2008.

GLENBROOK THROUGH THE YEARS

"Having a long time interest in Nepean area history, but moving to Glenbrook to live some years ago, resulted in me trying to learn the history of this area.

"I joined the Glenbrook Historical Society, but found it hard to follow the routes of the roads, rails and ridges in the area. So I turned to an old local newspaper, the Nepean Times, to see if I could find out more about Glenbrook

from the correspondent reports in it.

The Nepean Times was published from 1882 to 1962 and contains many items about people, places and events in Glenbrook.

"I have been copying these articles and collating an information index from them for some time now.

Overall they build a picture of Glenbrook through the years,

reporting on its natural beauty; its schools and churches; its roads and railways, its social groups; and its residents' lives.

"I hope to make the reports in 'Glenbrook through the years: From the Nepean Times' available to Glenbrook Historical Society, and its index available to any other groups who might like to have it."

Pat Curry, member Glenbrook Historical Society

Old Government House receives government stimulus

Peter Garrett, Federal Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, has announced \$2 million in funding for Old Government House(OGH) at Parramatta.

The grant, coming from the Federal Government's Jobs Fund, will enable important conservation work to be carried out at OGH including the upgrading of visitor facilities and the restoration of Governor Macquarie's study.

This news was welcomed by National Trust NSW executive director, John Neish, who said the

government was investing in a 'legacy project' that will bring good economic returns.

"By granting this funding, Minister Garrett is working to ensure that future generations of Australians will be able to experience our rich history, first hand.

"Old Government House has become a major focus for tourism in western Sydney and a great benefit for Parramatta's economy.

"This funding will enable the Trust to further develop Old Government

House's historical interpretation and enhance visitors' cultural experience.

"The funding will also provide a boost to local employment enabling the National Trust to establish 26 short term, and 40 longer term new jobs," Mr Neish said.

This \$2 million in funding comes on the eve of Governor Lachlan Macquarie's Bicentenary, celebrating his appointment as colonial Governor in January 1810.

BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

REGISTERED OFFICE 40 Hume Avenue,
Wentworth Falls 2782
E-mail: bmacho.heritage@gmail.com
Website: www.bluemountains.heritage

THE ORGANISATION Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Organisations Inc. (BMACHO) was established in April 2006 following a unanimous response to a proposal from Prof. 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 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 Turkish Bath 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 2009-10 is: John Leary, (president) Ian Jack (vice president), Barrie Reynolds (secretary), Kathie McMahon (treasurer), Jean Arthur, Ray Christison, Lyn Fowler, Doug Knowles, and Dick Morony (public officer), Peter Stanbury.

AUDITOR: Sue McMahon, B Comm CPA

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

HERITAGE is BMACHO's official newsletter.