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Some heritage links of Mount Tomah Botanic Garden

by Rob Smith, Mount Tomah Botanic Garden Director

Situated on a mountain top in the Blue Mountains, Mount Tomah Botanic Garden has many links with the long history of this region. This article will discuss only some of these links.

Mount Tomah has been covered in luxuriant rainforest from earliest times. George Caley, Sir Joseph Banks's collector in Sydney crossed the Devils Wilderness¹ and camped on Mount Tomah in 1804.

He described the tree ferns and rainforest vegetation in his journal and called the massif, Tree Fern Hill.

Tomah is the Darug word for tree fern². The mountain is thought to have special significance to Darug people and there are many signs of occupation around the springs, rainforest and associated sandstone cliffs.

Mount Tomah was also part of the network of trails Aboriginal people used to traverse this rugged country now known as the Blue Mountains.



Pictured is the pencil orchid *Dendrobium fairfaxii*. Photograph courtesy Tracey Armstrong, Mt Annan Botanic Garden.



On the Bells Line of Road approaching Mt Tomah circa 1920s. Photograph courtesy NSW Government Printing Office.

There are sites in the area recorded with occupation dates of about 9,000³ years ago.

In 1871, Robert Fitzgerald visited Mount Tomah and collected a new species of orchid. Baron Ferdinand Von Mueller and Robert Fitzgerald named this orchid species in honour of the work of the Fairfax family in supporting science, and the arts. They named the pencil Orchid *Dendrobium fairfaxii*.⁴

This species of orchid is growing in the Jungle today. This type description was published in the *Sydney Mail* of 1871 and the holotype is held in Melbourne Botanic Garden Herbarium.

By the 1920s the farmer who owned the then 280-hectares of warm temperate rainforest, adjacent to what is now the botanic garden, was

made an offer by a timber company wanting the trees for timber. Concerned citizens decided to act.

They formed a company, The Jungle Limited⁵ to buy the forest for £5000 half of which would be raised through £25 - £100 shares.

The rest would be raised by using a mortgage to be repaid from the expected revenue from a tea house to be built and operated on the site.

In 1929, 91 cars a day traversed the unsealed Bells Line of Road.

The above photograph taken at the now entrance to the botanic garden shows the look of the forested and fairly rough track that Bells Line was then.

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From the president's pen..... **Macquarie's convict sites featured in additions to World Heritage Listing**

The recent addition of 11 more Australian sites to UNESCO's World Heritage Listing should be seen by all conservationist and heritage enthusiasts as a welcome and truly aspirational achievement.

Together the sites represent the global phenomenon of convictism - the forced migration of convicts to penal colonies in the 18th and 19th centuries - and global developments in the punishment of crime in modern times.

The *Australian Convict Sites* are the preeminent examples of our rich convict history, with more than 3,000 convict sites remaining around Australia.

This is unique in the world today. In 2007 the importance of the Australian convict memory to all humankind was recognised when some of Australia's convict records were included in *UNESCO's Memory of the World Register*.

Of the 11 sites that make up the World Heritage *Australian Convict Sites*, four are in NSW with several having links to Lachlan Macquarie, so often called the "nation's builder" and whose 200th anniversary of his swearing-in as Governor of NSW is being celebrated this year. The sites are:

*** Old Government House and Domain, Parramatta**

This site is made up of five buildings and extensive archaeological remains set in 55 hectares of parkland (the Domain). Old Government House is a two-storey rendered brick building in Georgian style, restored to represent the Macquarie period. Around 100 convicts lived in huts and worked there during the convict era.

The site is a powerful symbol of the penal colony of NSW and is closely associated with efforts to reform and rehabilitate convicts during the Macquarie era. It had been occupied by governors from Captain Arthur Phillip in 1788 to Governor Denison in 1856.

***Hyde Park Barracks, Sydney**

Hyde Park Barracks is Australia's first government-built convict barracks, and the only remaining barracks building and complex from the Macquarie era of convict administration. It marked a turning point in Australia's management of transported convicts from Britain. It is also significant because it was designed by Australia's first architect Francis Greenway, and is regarded as one of his best works.

***Cockatoo Island convict site, Sydney Harbour**

Cockatoo Island was created as a penal settlement in 1839 for re-offending convicts. It was an ideal location for hard labour - isolated and secure, easy to provision, yet close to the heart of the colony's major population centre.

Convicts and colonial prisoners quarried massive areas of sandstone, excavated and helped to build a dockyard and constructed about 20 underground grain silos. Some were sentenced to solitary confinement in underground cells built into the sheer sandstone cliffs. After the abolition of transportation to NSW in 1840, Cockatoo Island operated as a penal settlement for convicts completing their sentences and for ex-convict and other colonial prisoners.

*** Old Great North Road, near Wiseman's Ferry adjacent to the Hawkesbury River**

The Great North Road was built from Sydney to the Hunter Valley by convicts between 1826 and 1836. It was part of an ambitious road building program to open up fertile

farming land for free settlement and improve transport and overland communication in the colony. Convicts worked in gangs on the Great North Road - some in leg irons - quarrying, excavating and building in laborious and tedious work that created a major engineering structure in the rugged landscape.

The Old Great North Road site is made up of a small portion of around seven and a half kilometres of the original 250 kilometre road. The site incorporates the Devine's Hill section (built 1829-32) and the Finch's Line section (built 1828 and subsequently abandoned).

It is an impressive landscape that retains qualities of the physical environment in which the convict road builders laboured. Still visible are the massive retaining walls of large sandstone blocks, quarried cliffs with triangular shaped marks from the hand-driven drill for blasting holes and stretches of chiselled gutters and remains of around 40 stone culverts. Convicts left their mark with graffiti, and some of this can still be seen on sandstone blocks today.

The other sites are: Kingston and Arthur's Vale historic area (Norfolk Island), Port Arthur historic site (on Tasmania's Tasman Peninsula), Cascades Female Factory (Hobart), Darlington Probation Station (Maria Island - Tasmania), Coal Mines historic site (Premadeyna - Tasmania), Brickendon Woolmers Estates (Longford - Tasmania) and Freemantle Prison (Western Australia).

Source: Heritage Division, Australian Government Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and Arts.

**John Leary, OAM
President, Blue Mountains
Association of Cultural Heritage
Organisations Inc.**

Botanic Gardens Trust buys Jungle

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On March 23, 1929 the Governor, Sir Dudley de Chair, unveiled a plaque alongside the Fairfax Walk (the late Sir James Fairfax owner of the Sydney Morning Herald had been a major backer of the project).

The Fairfax Walk was a set of paths winding from the tea room to what was dubbed 'The Temple of Nature'. With the depressed economy of that time the business closed 1934 and the land was resumed.

In 1972 Alfred and Effie Brunet donated 33 hectares of land to Royal Botanic Gardens to make a cool climate botanic garden at Mount Tomah. They had managed the property as a cut flower farm and nursery at Mount Tomah since 1934.

When they donated their property to the Royal Botanic Gardens in 1972, many of the original buildings were demolished or moved.

A large corrugated iron shed was moved to the adjacent property, the Jungle.

In 2009 the Jungle Property was purchased by the Botanic Gardens Trust, funded by a generous donation from John and Libby Fairfax as well as the NSW Environmental Trust.

After much work, a part of the original path system was reinstated and linked to paths from the Botanic Garden.

This was re-opened to the public exactly 80 years to the day by Professor Marie Bashir AC, Governor of NSW, on March 23, 2009 and named the Lady Vincent Fairfax Walk



Effie and Alfred Brunet with George Townsend in front of their cottage.

This also meant the heritage building the Brunets had owned and used for 34 years as a nursery building was returned to public ownership.

Now visitors to the botanic garden can see this fine example of nursery buildings of the period. It will soon be interpreted for visitors to Mount Tomah Botanic Garden and can be seen when visitors take a stroll on the Lady Vincent Fairfax Walk.

The acquisition of the Jungle, so it is now part of Mount Tomah Botanic Garden through the generosity of John and Libby Fairfax marked the completion of the first Botanic Bicentenary Project for Botanic Gardens Trust at Mount Tomah.

Endnotes

¹ Andrews Alan E.J., 1984. *The Devil's Wilderness, George Caley's Journey to Mount Banks 1804.*

² Kenny Suzanne, *Mount Tomah Darug Aboriginal Connections*, 2002. pg 3

³ Kenny Suzanne, *Mount Tomah Darug Aboriginal Connections*, 2002. pg 4.

⁴ Mueller and Fitzgerald 1872, *Sydney Mail, The Garden, Flora of Australia, Dendrobium Fairfaxii* September 21 pg 360

⁵ A New National Park. 'The Jungle'. Invitation to life membership by ordinary share subscription. Australian National Library ANL MIC—mcN2225 JAFp HISAT 907.

State Governor opens Hobby's Reach Research Centre

Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir, AC, CVO, Governor of NSW officially opened the Sadler Wing of the Blue Mountains Historical Society's Hobby's Reach Centre on Saturday, September 11, 2010.

The wing named after the late Geoff Sadler, a local historian and former treasurer of the society was built with the assistance of a grant from Arts NSW, a grant which Geoff had worked hard to obtain.

The late Geoff Sadler left his considerable library to the society which will be housed in the new extension.



A plaque commemorating the major support of the then owner of the Sydney Morning Herald, Sir James Fairfax.

A pictorial archive of the Blue Mountains

by Graham Warmbath - President, Blue Mountains Historical Society Inc.

To the historian, a photograph is a story without words.

The Blue Mountains Historical Society has a collection of 7000 photographic images in Hobby's Reach Research Centre at Wentworth Falls. Each one is a historical document - visual evidence to help place people, events and buildings at a moment in time.

While the collection is predominantly a local history archive, it includes photographs of national significance and examples of early photographic techniques. To shed light on the latter, calls for a little historical context:

In Persia around 1000AD, the Father of Optics, Alhazen, described a 'dark chamber' with an aperture through which sunlight can project an image from the outside onto a 'screen' within - the camera obscura.

Moving on, in 1727 a German anatomist, JH Schulze, noticed that light darkened silver salts. Then the French inventor Nicéphore Niépce, used a camera to make a view from his window on a pewter plate.



Centennial Cottage gardener, William Wright (with friend), H Phillips. 1909. - Blue Mountains Historical Society Collection

"Sometime ago, **HERITAGE** asked the author of this article, Graham Warmbath how he became interested in history and the following was his reply :

"You ask me how I became interested in heritage? My answer is 'over time'! I learnt from Scottish ghost stories and English antiques.

"On Blaxland Road, a green road sign inscribed 'museum' led me to Hobby's Reach. What did that mean? I had to find out.

"Visit Hobby's Reach Research Centre and more than one new tale unfolds -Lieutenant Hobby's 'long reach, quite straight' road for a start; how Mr Vaniman photographed Katoomba with his immense camera from the top of a twenty five foot pole - and even more from the three-dimensional evidence of 1890s Tarella cottage in the grounds outside.

"Histories and things that have been valued are keys to a proper understanding of today, because they unlock circumstances that have given rise to today. Without understanding this, it is impossible to see a way forward."

It was 1822 and Niépce called his image, a heliograph. In 1839, another Frenchman and a chemist, L-JM Daguerre, also used a camera to expose a silver-coated copper plate which, once developed and fixed, produced a one-off, no negative, lasting image:

'You are aware that iodine is used in Daguerre's process for getting the solar drawing on his silvered plate. Who could have anticipated that the discovery of a violet-coloured gas in the refuse of kelp would lead to such important results?' asked Sir John Franklin in the Tasmanian Journal of Natural Science of 1842.

Finally in 1840, a British inventor, WH Fox Talbot, achieved a negative-to-positive image and produced the first coated-paper photographs - he did not explain how 'coated' - but he used a camera to expose a sensitised paper, developed a negative image and then, by contact printing to another sensitised paper, a positive. This realised the potential of producing multiple positive images, and popular photography was born.

It was 1841 when Captain Lucas of the French barque *Justine* took Australia's first photograph (of Bridge and George Streets, Sydney) using Daguerre's process.

In the following year, George Goodman, Australia's first

professional photographer, advertised 'Photographic Portraits taken by the reflection of light'.

The earliest image in the Blue Mountains Historical Society's collection is the portrait of a lady, a daguerreotype, the process favoured by richer people because its image was unique, dated around 1850.

Next is a carte-de-visite print on albumen-coated card, dated around 1853. The pièce de résistance is a portrait of Queen Victoria's second son, Prince Alfred (the royal visitor who was shot at Clontarf on March 12, 1868), on glass. Mitchell Library Curator of Photographs, Alan Davies, has identified this as a unique wet collodion image of around 1864.

The collection's earliest black and white image on paper is of solitary One Tree Hill, taken by an unknown photographer around 1869.

By the way, John William Berghofer - after whom the Pass is named and who initiated the 1913 celebrations of the crossing of the Blue Mountains - reputedly said that the name One Tree Hill 'attracts tourists'. The society holds an elegant portfolio of Joseph Bischoff's large-scale prints of the Grose Valley and surrounds.

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Earliest image dates back to 1869

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These were taken during Frederick Eccleston Du Faur's 1875 expedition, designed to entice artists and photographers to record Blue Mountains' scenery for display at the Philadelphia Exhibition of 1876.

To get these photographs, the expedition relied on donkeys to carry camping and cumbersome photographic equipment down the Engineer's Track and into the Valley.



HMAS Australia entering Sutherland Dry Dock, Cockatoo Island 1919. - Blue Mountains Historical Society Collection

Also held by the society is an original collection of Mount Victoria photographer Ebenezer Caney's sepia toned albumen prints of Jenolan Caves scenery, dated about 1882; a tintype album of around 1880, containing thirty six postage stamp size individual portraits - the technique was extremely popular in America and not expensive; a photograph of the Explorer's Marked Tree by Charles Kerry, dated 1885 - Kerry made photographs into postcards which are much valued by collectors today; a stereograph by Judge Docker of his daughters Muriel and Rosamund with Mrs Vivian viewing the Three Sisters, dated 1898; and a Frank Hurley montage of Ross and Keith Smith's biplane flight over the Three Sisters, dated 1920.

There is also Melvin Vaniman's two framed, nationally significant panoramic photographs by this American photographer hung at

Hobby's Reach Research Centre. *The Mountaineer's* report of November 27, 1903 follows:

'For some time past a pole 80 feet high has been standing in the high part of the Katoomba Park, and all that was known of it was that it was for taking a photograph of Katoomba.

'It has been standing for some time waiting for an opportune day, and was utilised on Wednesday last.

'We saw the photographer, Mr Melvin Vaniman from San Francisco, USA, who is under special assignment with the New South Wales government and railway commissioners, and had the pleasure of seeing some of his unique work.

'These are panoramic pictures taken on one plate 48 x 16 inches, and embracing a panorama of over 190 degrees.

'Some idea of the vastness of the panorama can be obtained when we explain that a picture was obtained of Katoomba Falls and the surroundings which take in the top Lookout, the Falls, the Three Sisters, the Broken Wall, Mount Solitary and round to the Orphan Rock. This will be the finest view of Katoomba Falls in existence'. But it is the profusion of Harry Phillips' work from 1909 now held by the society which perhaps outweighs that of other photographers of mountains scenery.

Phillips fell in love with the Blue Mountains during convalescence after a hand injury prevented him continuing a printing career.

The society has a prized store of his glass photographic plates, several fine albums and many of the distinctive worldwide brochures with which he publicised the mountains.

Phillips was inspired by the seas of mists periodically rising from the valleys, temporarily marooning the ridges, and also by the drama of cloud formations. Even so, his pastoral picture of wildflowers at Mt Wilson, dated 1920, remains one of my favourites.

Here I must pause, knowing that I have not mentioned such magical images as those of the gold prospector at Lithgow, the *Cutty Sark* at Circular Quay, Sydney's ratcatchers, the Pickwick Club on a bushwalk, or the first train over the mountains. While historians evaluate content and photographers process, I have applied but one empirical criterion in selecting images for description here: 'does the image please?'.

Hobby's Reach is open to all on Tuesday and Friday mornings throughout the year.

Acknowledgements: References are available. Information over time is acknowledged from Gwen Silvey, OAM, Alan Tierney, Alan Davies, Gael Newton, Gurd Ewart, Jim Smith, and Joan Smith



H Cummins (photo donor) quizzes Sir John Northcott at Australia's 1951 Federation Jubilee. - Blue Mountains Historical Society Collection

Crossing of the Blue Mountains and opening up the west 1813 - 1815 commemoration

The Royal Australian Historical Society earlier this year offered to co-ordinate activities to commemorate the bicentenary of the first European crossing of the Blue Mountains and appointed its senior vice president Professor David Carment to oversee this role.

At a meeting of BMACHO's management committee in June it was suggested that the RAHS might convene a meeting of interested parties from Penrith through the Blue Mountains and Lithgow to Bathurst so that the commemoration could have lasting benefit.

It was also strongly felt that the commemoration should not only be of the period of the first crossing but should include recognition of the surveying and road construction which opened the way to the west and ultimately Macquarie's visit to Bathurst and his proclamation of that town in 1815

President of the RAHS, Associate Professor Ian Jack convened a meeting in Sydney in late July which was attended by representatives from local government, historical societies, the Land & Property Management Authority (Bathurst) and BMACHO.

A number of representatives at the meeting indicated consideration was being given to various ideas

while it was noted that the RTA had been surveying Cox's route as a possible walking trail.

Penrith's mayor, Cr Kevin Cramer and Penrith City Council's local studies librarian, Lorraine Stacker indicated a number of activities were already being planned to commemorate the start of the first crossing from Emu Plains.

The president of Hartley District Progress Association, Ramsay Moodie also indicated a public meeting had recently been held to discuss commemoration activities.

RAHS manager, Mari Metzke commented on the concept of the Great North Walk from Sydney

Harbour to the Hunter Valley which could be used for a western walk including the various crossings and descents.

National Trust branches at Lithgow and Blue Mountain have been discussing for some years commemorations of the completion of Cox's Road.

The next meeting of the RAHS group will be held in Penrith later this month and those societies or heritage groups interested in proposing ideas for the commemoration will be invited to this meeting.

For further details contact John Leary on 4758 8584 or johnnanette@optusnet.com.au

National Library Australia calling for contributions to Australian newspaper service

The National Library of Australia is now inviting contributions to its Australian newspapers service.

This service provides free online access to digitised Australian newspapers through Trove trove.nla.gov.au, the national resource discovery service.

With 40 million articles from over 100 newspaper titles representing every Australian state and territory scheduled to be in the service by June 2011, Australian newspapers will enable users to explore online an unprecedented quantity and range of Australia's newspaper heritage.

From July 2011, the National Library will be implementing a model which enables other libraries and institutions to fund digitisation of specific newspaper titles.

The Australian newspapers service is part of the Australian Newspaper Plan <<http://www.nla.gov.au/anplan>> , a cooperative endeavour through which Australian libraries collect, preserve and provide access to Australian newspapers.

For further information about how to contribute to the Australian newspapers service, please see the Contributor Guidelines (http://www.nla.gov.au/ndp/get_involved/documents/ANScontributorguidelines2010final.pdf) and Factsheet (http://www.nla.gov.au/anplan/documents/Benefits_of_ANDP_Model_for_Contributors_000.pdf), or call the National Library on 02 6262 1685.

Neolithic beer

An American brewery has re-created a 9000-year-old beer after claiming to have analysed Neolithic pottery found in China.

Chateau Jiahu was brewed from wildflower honey, Muscat grapes, barley malt, hawthorn fruit and chrysanthemums.

Dr Patrick McGovern, a biomolecular archaeologist, came across the pottery shards on a trip to China 10 years ago. *Telegraph* London

COUNCIL TO GET HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

There has been considerable discussion in recent years between BMACHO and senior staff at Blue Mountains City Council concerning the establishment of a heritage advisory committee.

Last month following a preliminary report, council resolved that the staff produce a further report on BMACHO's proposal before the end of March 2011.

JOHN ROSS, CONVICT LABOURER ON THE COX'S ROAD IN 1814

By Jan Koperberg

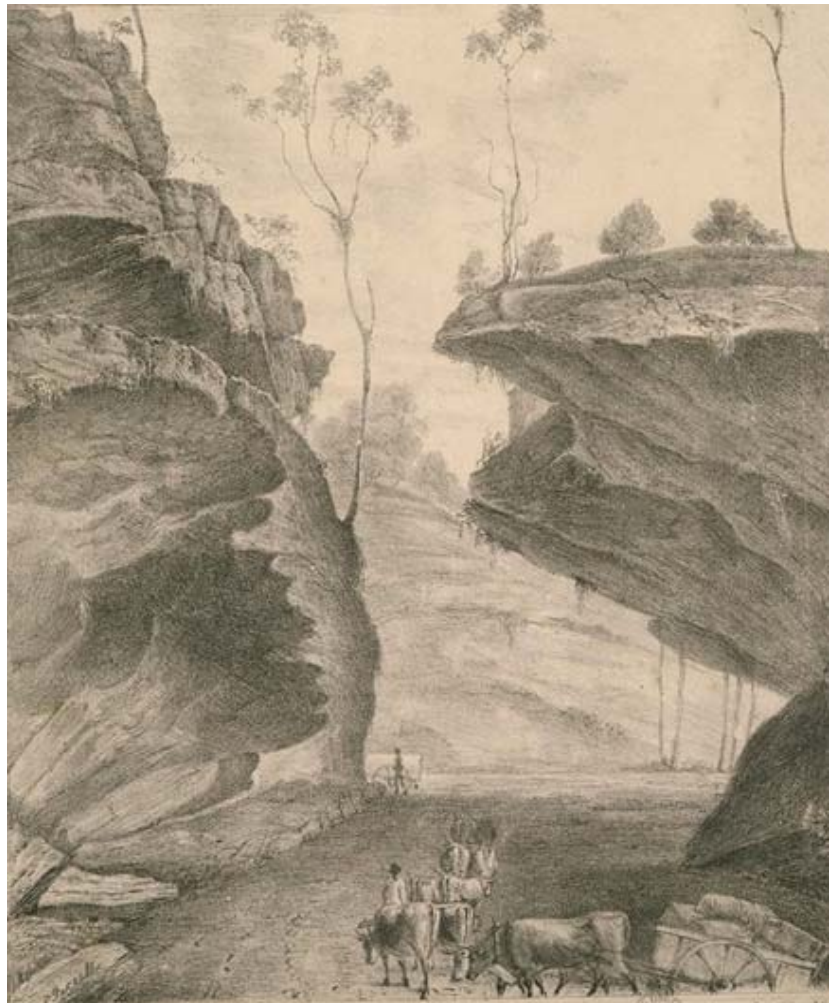
When I first started to research my family history little did I expect to find an ancestor who had been found guilty of highway robbery, sentenced to hang, later to be commuted and transported to the colony of New South Wales finally ending up as a labourer on the first road over the Blue Mountains in 1814.

Searches into my ancestry found that my third great grandfather was John Ross born c.1784, in County Tyrone, Ireland¹.

In 1805, he was charged with highway robbery, which led him to be tried at Salop Assizes, Shrewsbury in County Shropshire, England.

John pleaded not guilty, but was found guilty, to be hanged, no goods. No goods meant John had no possessions to confiscate. On March 23, 1805 he was sentenced to death, but this was commuted.² John Ross was sentenced on October 8, 1805 to transportation for the term of his natural life.³

The Shropshire Lent Assize, March 23, 1805, No 112, A Calendar of The Criminal Prisoners, In the Custody of Richard Cartwright, Keeper of his Majesty's Gaol for the County of Salop, Thomas Whitmore, Esquire, Sheriff records: "No 20. John Ross, aged 22, In his Majesty's Army of Reserve, born in



Reproduced above with permission of Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales is a watercolour by E. Purcell titled -Part of Cox's Pass, New South Wales, 1821 (Ref: SV1B/Blu M/21.)

Ireland. Condemned and reprieved."

"Charged upon the oath of John Edwards, of the Parish of Oldbury, in the said County of Salop, labourer, with having in the night between the 12th and 13th days of February, 1805, violently assaulted him the said John Edwards, on the king's highway, in the Parish of St. Mary Magdalen, in the town of Bridgnorth, in the said County of Salop, put him in fear, and taken from his person about thirteen shillings and sixpence in money: committed until the next assizes to beholden in and for the said County of Salop, or until he shall be thence discharged by due course of law, the 13th day of February, 1805, by Thomas Carter, Gentleman, Bailiff."

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND RESEARCHER

The author and researcher of this article, Jan Koperberg has lived in the Blue Mountains since 1967, where she raised her family and worked in a medical practice for 30 years.

She retired from full time work at the end of 2005, which is when



she started family history research in earnest.

Research into family lines have produced links to England, Ireland, Scotland, Denmark and Sweden, with a distant cousin in Chile.

Jan is the vice president and former secretary of Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc., a committee member NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc. and is currently secretary of BMACHO.

Convicts praised in 'Memoirs of William Cox'

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From the Shropshire General Quarter Sessions, October 8, 1805, No 110, A Calendar of the Criminal Prisoners, In the Custody of Richard Cartwright, Keeper of His Majesty's Gaol for the County of Salop, Thomas Whitmore, Esq. Sheriff records:

*"Sentenced to be Transsported [sic]: No 24. John Ross, aged 22, During the term of his natural life."*⁴

The Convict Indent states that John Ross was transported on the *Duke of Portland* and arrived in the colony in 1807.

His native place was given as Co Tyrone, his trade as weaver, his hair colour brown, his eye colour hazel, his height 5ft 5 in tall and his complexion ruddy.⁵

The ship *Duke of Portland* departed London on February 26, 1807 and arrived in Sydney NSW on July 27, 1807. The ship's master was John Clark Spence. The voyage took 189 days.⁶

John Ross was to survive the sea journey and in the General Muster of NSW, Norfolk Island and Van Diemen's Land 1811, John Ross is recorded as being a resident of NSW with the status of 'convict; having arrived on board the *Duke of Portland* after his trial Shrewsbury' where he had been sentenced in February 1805 to 7 years imprisonment, although in fact it had been for life.⁷

On January 24, 1812 a son, William, was born to John Ross and Elizabeth Bennett, in Windsor, NSW.

There is no birth registered with NSW Registry of Births, Death and Marriages. However, St Matthew's Church of England, Windsor records William's birth January 24, 1812 and his baptism August 15, 1813, The minister at the time was Rev Robt Cartwright.⁸

Elizabeth Bennett had been tried at the Devon Assizes, Exeter, County Devonshire. She pleaded not guilty, but was found guilty of grand larceny, to be transported for a term of 7 years.



Cox's Pass site of railing which stretched across the drop to the rock in background. This was in place to keep stock on the road.

Photograph by Jan Koperberg, May 2010.

She arrived in the colony on the *Canada* on September 8, 1810.⁹

On July 5, 1813, the marriage of John Ross and Elizabeth Bennett, by Banns, is recorded in the register of St Matthew's Church of England, Windsor.

They were married by the Rev Cartwright and the witnesses to the marriage were James Vincent, Thos Holding and John Holden. Both John and Elizabeth put an X mark, so neither could write.¹⁰

On July 10, 1814, a daughter, Mary, was born to John and Elizabeth Ross, at Windsor, NSW.¹¹ Mary married Isaac Perrett, at Christ Church, Newcastle, NSW, on October 11, 1831.¹² Isaac was transported to Australia on the *Hadlow* in 1818.

He was a native of Gloucestershire, England.¹³ Isaac was later recorded as a Constable, Bush Constable and Farmer at Patricks Plains.¹⁴

The General Muster of NSW 1814 records John Ross of Windsor still with the status of convict being 'on stores at the Mountains'.¹⁵

The men who were receiving 'stores at the Mountains', were the men building the first road and Governor Lachlan Macquarie decreed that no one else was to enter the area and interrupt their important work.

John was a labourer on 'The Road', having been selected as being accustomed to field labour and supposed to be accustomed to undergo the fatigue of hard work and sleeping on the ground. The reward – Emancipation.

The following extracts are taken from 'Memoirs of William Cox, J.P., Lieutenant and Paymaster of NSW Corps or 102nd Regiment, Late of Clarendon, Windsor':

"Dec 10 Fine day; wind west. Finished the bridge over the east branch, 22 ft long, 13 ft wide. Carpenters, etc., made a good strong job of it. The working bullocks strayed and not found till sunset. Sick: P Hanragan, J Tindall, H Morton. Ordered six married men to go back to the mountain to finish the road down it to the valley. When done, they are to be discharged – S Parker, J Ross, J Tindall, P Hanragan, P Marman and J Watkins. Also ordered J Wilson to go forward on Monday with nine others road-making."

"Dec 11 (Sunday) At 6am sent six men back to the mountain to complete the road. At 7am sent 10 men forward to encamp at Blaxland's Mountain, under Watson's charge. ..."

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Road work was hard - the prize, emancipation

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"Dec 15 Loaded the three carts, and sent them forward at 6am At 7am went forward myself and came up with the party at the 10-mile, to which they had completed the road, except turning some rock out of it after you ascend the hill at Blaxland's Mountain. Returned at 10, and sent forward three men with crowbars, pickaxes, etc. to complete the road, and remain with the party ahead. J Allen very ill; ordered him back from Mr Hobby's party to mine. At 1pm one of the party at the mountain came to report they had finished their task. Sent Lewis back to examine it, and found it completed. Gave them their discharge (six men), and sent a cart with them as far as the Nepean, to carry their bedding. A dull, heavy day, with light rain in the afternoon. Men worked well at the bridge and causeway to it." ¹⁶.

There is an overhanging rock on Cox's Pass, where the road builders would have been able to sleep and dry their bedding, which would have been an improvement to sleeping in the open, under all weather conditions.

That part of the rock overhang features in the sketch *Part of Cox's Pass*, by E Purcell held by the National Library of Australia at <http://catalogue.nla.gov.au/Record/2034425>

John Ross would have been very pleased to return to the

Hawkesbury, to his wife Elizabeth and children William and Mary, who was born only 5 months earlier.

Although the work was hard, the hours long and the weather cold and wet for a good part of the time, the men were well fed, clothed and cared for by William Cox.

He knew he would benefit by treating them well and they in turn had the enticement of emancipation as encouragement. William Cox was a kind and caring man, who had great insight and understanding of human nature.

John Ross received a Conditional Pardon from Governor Lachlan Macquarie, on June 5, 1815. All the other information given on his Convict Indent was recorded on his Pardon, No 585. ¹⁷.

On September 16, 1816, John Ross is recorded in the St Matthew's church register, as a witness to the Marriage by Banns of John Foley and Frances Johnson, performed by the Rev Samuel Marsden. Once again he witnessed with his X mark. The bride was the only member of the bridal party able to sign. ¹⁸.

In 1817 a son, John was born to John and Elizabeth Ross and on January 24, 1819, a daughter Jane was born, both at Windsor, NSW.¹⁹.

The State Records of NSW holds a memorial written for John Ross to Governor Lachlan Macquarie.

It states: *John Ross per 'Duke of Portland' 1807 of Richmond, 1820 May 26, Memorial*

*"To His Excellency Governor Macquarie
The humble memorial of John Ross
Most respectfully sheweth The Memorialist arrived in the Transport ship 'Duke of Portland' in the year 1807. That he lived several years with Mr G W Evans, Deputy Surveyor, at Hobart Town, then residing at Richmond, that he was emancipated for his services at Bathurst under William Cox Esquire, since which he has endeavoured to support himself and his wife and 4 children, by his honest industry and by renting a few pieces of land, but having suffered very severely by the late floods he is induced to solicit Your Excellency to be graciously pleased to grant him a portion of land, by which he may be enabled to maintain himself and family by his labor. And memorialist will ever pray
John Ross*

We certify to His Excellency the Governor that we consider petitioner as coming with [sic] the meaning of the General Order of the 20 May last and recommend him accordingly.

*Wm Boggs
John Cross Chapn
Richmond 26th May 1820"*

(1817 has been crossed out and 1820 written above) Written on left corner is '50 acres'. ²⁰.

A son, George, was born to John and Elizabeth Ross, in Windsor, NSW on July 31, 1822. ²¹.

By 1822 the General Muster and Land and Stock Muster of NSW recorded John Ross as a landholder with the following property at Windsor: G L & P (Grant, Lease and Purchase), Resident on Farm. Acres in: Wheat 2-3/4, Maize 3, Pease/Beans 1/4, Pots 1/4, Cleared Ground: 13-1/2, Total held: 46-1/2. Stock: Horses 4, Horned Cattle 12, Hogs, 10. Bushels of grain in hand, Maize 14.²².

Continued page 10



Patty Lane of Newcastle and Jan Koperberg, both descendants of John Ross at Cox's Pass. Pick-marks some made by a left-handed man can be seen in the rock carved gutter.

John Ross, landholder, employs convict labour

Continued from page 9

In the 1823, 1824, 1825 General Muster List of NSW John Ross is recorded with the status of 'landholder' at Richmond, while his wife Elizabeth Bennett had the status of 'free by servitude'. By then the family had increased to include William, Mary, Jane and George.²⁴

In the Index & Registers of Land Grants – Leases & Purchases 1820 – 1856 the listing indicates John Ross land grant at Richmond was 1 acre, 1 rood, 1 perch in size.²⁵

John Ross is not mentioned in the 1828 census of NSW and it is probable he may have been moving his family from the Hawkesbury district to the Hunter Valley district.

He most likely travelled the newly completed Great North Road and was probably on the road when the census was taken.

In 1829, a daughter, Elizabeth was born.

In extracts from the Baptism Register, Parish of St Peters, East Maitland, Hunter Valley, NSW, a baptism is recorded for Elizabeth Ross dated February 10, 1829, father John, mother Elizabeth, abode Darlington, (which is on the northern side of the Hunter River, Singleton), father's occupation was given as farmer.²⁶

In the Convicts & Employers (NSW) Index: 1828, 1832-1833, Jan 1838-Jan 1844 by Pastkeys: *ROSS John, an employer, received on 28 August 1833, Assignment Male, at Patricks Plains, a seaman & a farming man* (Government Gazette).²⁷

So John was obviously in a position to not only feed and clothe his family, but was able to feed and clothe farm help, in the way of convict labour.

The 1834 and 1837 postal directories list the family as living at Patricks Plains and receiving mail at Darlington Post Office.²⁸

John Ross died intestate on March 15, 1834 and administration was granted on November 16, 1842 to Elizabeth Ross, his widow.²⁹

He is buried at Whittingham Cemetery, near Singleton NSW. The headstone for John and Elizabeth Ross is engraved with the words:

*To the memory of
JOHN ROSS
who departed this life
March 15th 1834 50 years.
Also to the memory of
ELIZABETH ROSS
wife of above
who departed this life
August 15th 1864 79 years.
Therefore be ye also ready to for
such an hour
as ye think not the son of man
cometh*

It is a sandstone headstone and the inscription is very, very worn. It is in front of the grave of Benjamin Singleton and also near the headstones and graves of Perrett relatives.

Elizabeth Ross survived her husband, John, by 30 years and is buried with him at Whittingham Cemetery. She was living at Newington, near Singleton when she died.³⁰

I am in awe of the achievement of William Cox and his 30 convict workers who built the first road over the Blue Mountains in six months. John Ross was my third great grandfather in my maternal grandmother's line.

My grandmother was born at Patricks Plains in 1880, the thirteenth child of George Perrett and Amelia Leary. George Perrett was born at Patricks Plains in 1832, the son of Mary Ross and Isaac Perrett.

I am thankful that Lachlan Macquarie was governor at the time and William Cox was the road builder.

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ARCHDUKE FRANZ FERDINAND'S VISIT TO THE MOUNTAINS

Contributed by Peter Chinn

Perusal of the pages of "The Nepean Times", one of our local newspapers from the 1880s to 1962, held in the Local Studies Collection at "Braemar", frequently uncovers gems of local history. One such was this item published on May 20, 1893:

"Distinguished Visitors on the Mountains"

His Imperial and Royal Highness Franz Ferdinand D'Este, Archduke of Austria-Hungary, paid a visit to the mountains on Wednesday last. District Superintendent Henson had charge of the special train and he speaks in the highest terms of the treatment the officials received at the hands of the visitors. His Royal Highness expressed himself as highly pleased with the visit. He said he was very pleased that he had brought his vessel on to Sydney if only to visit such wonderful sites as Wentworth Falls, Govett's Leap and the Zig Zag."

Franz Ferdinand was heir presumptive to the thrones of the twin kingdoms of Austria and Hungary which were ruled at the time by the aged Emperor Franz Josef.

He was undertaking a world tour with his wife, Archduchess Sophie on board *Kaiserin Elisabeth* (Empress Elizabeth) which was described as the most powerful cruiser in the Austro-Hungarian navy. (It should be remembered that unlike the small, land-locked Austria of modern times the Austro-Hungarian Empire up to its dissolution at the end of the Great War had an extensive coastline on the Adriatic Sea and possessed a powerful navy).

The pages of *The Sydney Morning Herald* recorded in great detail the royal couple's arrival and activities while in the colony.

Those of us who remember Queen Elizabeth II's first visit to Australia in 1954 and the extensive coverage of her activities in the media will have some idea of the attention given to Franz Ferdinand and Sophie.

In those days Australia's remoteness from what was then regarded as the centre of the world in Europe meant that Australians were deprived of the presence of world celebrities.

The attempted assassination of Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh at Clontarf in March 1868 was probably a negative for royal visits, notwithstanding the naming of a

Sydney hospital by way of assuaging ruffled royal feathers.

Then there was the visit of Queen Victoria's teen age grandsons Prince Albert and Prince George (later King George V) in May 1881. Prince George, as Duke of York, paid a second visit to Australia with his duchess in 1901.

It is therefore not surprising that our forebears treated any royalty with adulation, and as evidenced by reportage no small degree of sycophancy and grovelling.

The Sydney Morning Herald of May 17, 1893 gave a detailed report of the arrival of the *Kaiserin Elisabeth* which arrived the previous day and anchored in Farm Cove after the firing of a 21 gun salute from the Dawes Point Battery.

Many dignitaries visited the ship to pay their respects. The first aboard was the acting Consul for Austria-Hungary followed by the Lieutenant-Governor of New South Wales, Sir Frederick Darley and his entourage. As the latter departed the *Kaiserin Elisabeth* fired a 17 gun salute, which must have been quite startling.

The report mentioned that 'Crowds of persons were assembled at Man-o'-War Steps through the morning, but most of the people left shortly after 12 o'clock.'

They had collected to see the royal visitor land, and had been disappointed.



Archduke Francis Ferdinand

It was anticipated that the landing would be effected at either 11am or 12pm but both these hours went by without the expectations of the crowd being realised. Rumours were then circulated that his Highness would not come ashore until 3pm; but at 1.30pm when not more than 70 persons were present, the Archduke, accompanied by Archduke Leopold Ferdinand of Tuscany and suite, were landed by a launch.

There was no ceremony of any kind, the Archduke having expressed a wish to land incognito. The party, dressed as ordinary tourists, seated in two cabs which had been waiting about, and drove off without as much as a cheer or the waving of a single handkerchief.

At 3 o'clock in the afternoon his Imperial Highness returned the Lieutenant-Governor's visit. His Highness also visited the Australian Museum and in the evening he returned to the *Kaiserin Elisabeth*.

Continued page 12

Archduke's party viewed Wentworth Falls and Govett's Leap

Continued from page 11

Franz Ferdinand was keen on hunting – shooting game – and had indulged in this while visiting India before arriving in Australia.

While here a special train was arranged to take the Archduke and entourage to Narromine to pursue this pastime.

It was reported that the train was stopped on arriving at the top of the Lapstone Zig Zag for the party to take in the panoramic view of the plains.

At Wentworth Falls everyone alighted from the train to be driven to the falls themselves.

The beauty of the falls and the Jamison Valley appeared to make a great impression on the Archduke and suite. His Imperial Highness said it was worthwhile coming to New South Wales if it were only to see that view.

At Blackheath vehicles conveyed the party to Govett's Leap, and the magnificence of the view here also seemed to strike the Archduke.

In the Narromine district the Archduke and party were guests at a couple of properties where they had the opportunity to shoot wildlife.

It was recorded that after breakfast one day the party set off with 20 horsemen to drive the game. A number of kangaroos were shot and others were caught by the dogs.

At the first drive his Imperial Highness 'succeeded in shooting, with great rapidity, five kangaroos, so that he very soon established himself in the estimation of those present as being a first-class marksman'. (He was to find the situation somewhat reversed some years later in Sarajevo!)

The following day 'more kangaroos fell to the Archduke's rifle. Ducks of a number of varieties, as well as pelican, ibis, cranes, eagles and hawks were also secured'.



Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Este (1863-1914) with his wife, Sophie and family

On another day a flock of emus were driven past the Archduke who succeeded with the rifle in killing a very fine specimen and wounding another which was afterwards secured.

At the conclusion of the Narromine adventure the Archduke returned to Sydney in the luxury of a special carriage attached to a mail train.

The Archduke later visited the Southern Highlands for a further slaughter of wildlife, including a platypus on the Wollondilly River.

It has to be said that the Archduke's shooting was not entirely pointless blood sport.

A taxidermist and photographer accompanied his party, and animals, after being shot, were skinned and dissected, the bones numbered for the purpose of being reassembled and inclusion in a museum in his homeland.

The royal party departed Sydney early in June 1893, and with that, their brief encounter with the Blue Mountains passes into history.

On June 28, 1914 Archduke Franz Ferdinand and Archduchess Sophie were assassinated by a young Serbian nationalist while visiting Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina, half a world away from the Blue Mountains

This was the spark that precipitated the Great War.

The pages of *The Nepean Times* made no reference at the time to the fate of our erstwhile royal tourists.

However, over the next four years there were to be all too many references to young soldiers from the Blue Mountains who were killed or wounded in action in the Great War.

About the author of this article

Peter Chinn (pictured) historian and researcher, who with his wife, Joyce has lived in Springwood for 46 years, is the president and research officer of Springwood Historical Society Inc.

He retired from the Australian Custom Service in 1996 after 40 years service and was recalled in 1998 to the ideal one-day-a-week job of history officer with ACS which concluded last month.

History has been an abiding passion for Peter since early childhood.

In 2006 Peter researched and wrote for the Springwood Historical Society Inc. *The Thin Red and Blue*



Lines a history of the military and police presence in the Blue Mountains between the Nepean and Cox's River 1814-2005.

Frederick Robert D'Arcy

colonial surveyor, explorer and artist

a biography by Andy Macqueen

As the bicentenary of the 1813 Blue Mountains crossing approaches, local historian Andy Macqueen has produced a biography of a different explorer—probably the first white man to fully engage with the rugged Colo country, now known as the Wollemi.

A promising young man with an impressive military heritage, Frederick D'Arcy arrived in Sydney in 1828 and embarked on a long surveying career.

He soon proved his mettle in the Colo River country, now known as the Wollemi. According to Macqueen, who is a great-great-grandson of D'Arcy, and who has explored the mountains extensively himself, D'Arcy's expeditions were the most rugged of any undertaken by any early surveyor or explorer on mainland Australia.

From 1849 D'Arcy was back in the Blue Mountains, employed as clerk of court at Hartley, and as a surveyor based at Hartley and Rylstone.

He was also engaged to find a route across the Wollemi, from Mudgee to the Hawkesbury.

Meanwhile, D'Arcy and his long-suffering wives and children lurched from one disaster to another.

He was embroiled in disputes and scandals in NSW, Port Phillip, Van Diemen's Land and Queensland.

This might be blamed on a love of adventure, gambling, drinking and horses—and on his mentor the tyrannical Major Mitchell.

He was not alone. Macqueen reveals the challenges faced by the ordinary surveyor as he battled the bush, recalcitrant convicts and assistants, and enigmatic superiors.

D'Arcy was a prolific artist, though few works survive. One humorously depicts the famous poet and steeplechaser Adam Lindsay Gordon on a hunt, probably with D'Arcy himself. Another is a rare portrait of a Port Phillip Aboriginal man.

The book was launched on July 27 by Surveyor General Warwick Watkins.

This was followed by a local launch by Professor Robert O'Neill at the Hartley Courthouse. This was an

appropriate location given D'Arcy's role there—and the mark he made when he had a community-splitting controversy with Thomas Brown, the future 'Father of Lithgow'.

The book retails for \$45, and can be obtained direct from the author at andymacqueen@gmail.com.

Hardback; 288 pages; 76 pictures and maps (19 in colour).

ISBN 9780646533599. Published by the author.

BM HISTORY JOURNAL ONLINE

The inaugural issue of the Blue Mountains History Journal an initiative of BMACHO has been published online.

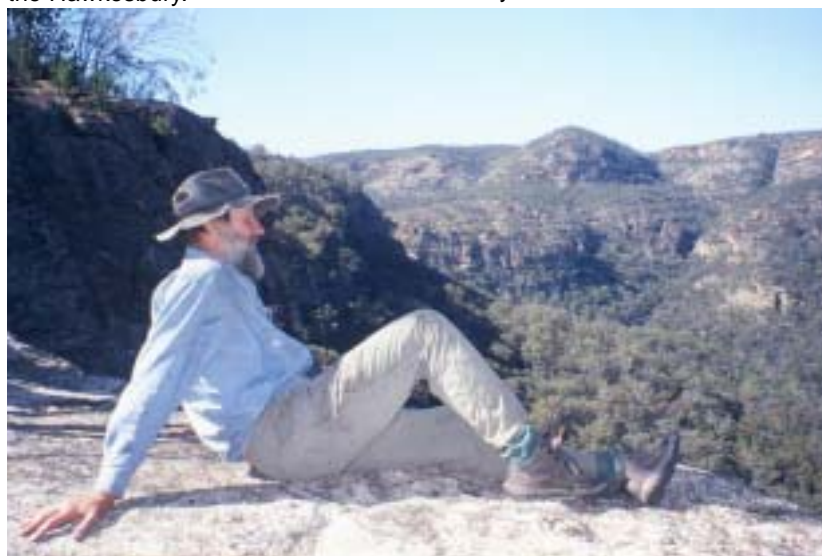
In his editorial, Journal editor Dr Peter Rickwood stated: "The first issue contains four articles but only one of the authors is a professional historian so hopefully indicating the non-restrictive intent of this publication.

"The subjects range from a large block of land to accounts of the lives of two significant individuals and then to an update on the tools and occupational sites of the indigenous people.

"This eclectic selection embraces the time span of human history from the 20th century to as far back as currently we know c.50,000 years for this part of Australia," Dr Rickwood stated.

This venture has been assisted by a grant from the Royal Australian Historical Society.

The *Blue Mountains History Journal* may be accessed at <http://www.bluemountainsheritage.com.au/html/journal.html>



The author of this biography, Andy Macqueen pictured in the 'bush on the track of his ancestor in the Colo country'. Macqueen of Wentworth Falls is a historian, former TAFE teacher of local history, a renowned bushwalker and conservationist. In 2008 he was recognised with the NSW Government Heritage Volunteer Award for his outstanding contribution to heritage conservation.

National Trust's advocacy role

Many in the community are unaware that advocacy on heritage issues is a major role of the National Trust of Australia and that local branches of the organisation are continually monitoring heritage sites throughout the nation. In this region Blue Mountains, Lithgow, Hawkesbury and Bathurst districts have branches whose members are involved in this aspect of the Trust's work. *HERITAGE* invited David Turner, (pictured) vice chair of Blue Mountains Branch of National Trust Australia (NSW) to comment on this role specifically drawing on examples and results of it's work.



Advocacy has been an inherent part of the National Trust organisation since inception, and that is the same, of course, for the branches.

This role, apart from the internal organisation involved in management of their heritage buildings and collections with the associated community contacts, has become the most important external expression.

This article is written by David Don Turner relating to the assessment of the most important advocacy items during the past 10 years. David is currently involved in handling heritage issues for the Blue Mountains Branch, where these are raised by members, and the branch is asked by the Blue Mountains City Council to comment on development applications for listed heritage buildings.

Branch members also investigate and comment on other notified developments that we know will have effect on heritage areas or buildings. Professional advice and support comes from National Trust's, Sydney office.

Although advocacy has been a continual involvement, I have checked the records for the last 10 years to give some idea of the successes and disappointments in this area. It has to be remembered that these are always dependant on the community views and the actual strength of the local and state laws that support the resolutions. So working back from recent issues, the following give a brief resume of the issues and results of the most important items.

Medlow Bath Hydro-Majestic

Hotel The branch's comment to Blue Mountains City Council on the first application, was that there was too much diverse pseudo-historic design in the new work and it

should reflect current times. In the recently revised application there was a great improvement in this, so we believe a definite success.

Lawson Community (Memorial) Hall and shops

This has been a long saga from when the RTA implemented the Great Western Highway duplication. Initially the hall was to be demolished, but with the objections from the local community groups which the Trust's branch supported, the hall was finally saved with the road being repositioned even though the later portico had to be removed. Branch members also supported the retention of the existing shops, but this was not successful as the council had entered into agreements for new shops before the road was changed.



Lawson Community Hall

The branch is now supporting the council to have the shop frontage on Honour Avenue restored to their original heritage appearance.

Leura Mall Originally the Colless Supermarket in the centre of the mall was to be replaced by a supermarket with flat units over the retail area which would drastically change the scale with the additional height, and car parking problems. The branch, again with the local community protested but to no avail.

However, luck was on our side, as the original developer appeared to have financial problems, so the site was taken over by another which resulted in a new plan.

This plan has kept the scale of the shops on the street with a Woolworths and a new underground car park and loading access.

Katoomba Aldi Store This was one example of advocacy not being successful, being another example of fake historic appearance, as well as being poorly placed on the site, our objections were ignored. That said, supermarkets are very difficult to blend successfully into shopping streets, their separate street shops provided will probably stay empty.

Katoomba Renaissance Centre

The branch was successful in supporting the local action group in having the building heritage listed, but this has not stopped the deterioration to demolition status. John Leary has also pointed out in a recent public address when he said, *"there is no point in keeping old buildings in a state of permanent vacancy and long-term neglect and decay. Adaptive re-use is an important part of any heritage system and we must be willing to consider how best to achieve a balance of maintaining heritage values while allowing heritage sites to be a living part of society"*.

Cox's Road Blue Mountains Branch members have worked with the Bathurst and Lithgow branches over the last four years to produce a submission to the Heritage Commission to include significant portions still remaining of the original road on the State Heritage Register. The submission was lodged in April this year.

To conclude, advocacy on heritage issues will always continue to be an important part of the Blue Mountains Branch activities, particularly as with more than 1100 heritage sites identified in the area, being the largest number of any council in New South Wales.

'FACES IN THE STREET' AT LITHGOW

As part of History Week 2010, Lithgow City Library will display 'Faces in the Street' during normal library opening hours September 3 to 30.

This exhibition features a collection of portraits of familiar local faces by well known artist and local history author John Barnes.

These portraits are history in the making and will be available for sale by the artist, with half the sale price being donated to the Lithgow Private Hospital.

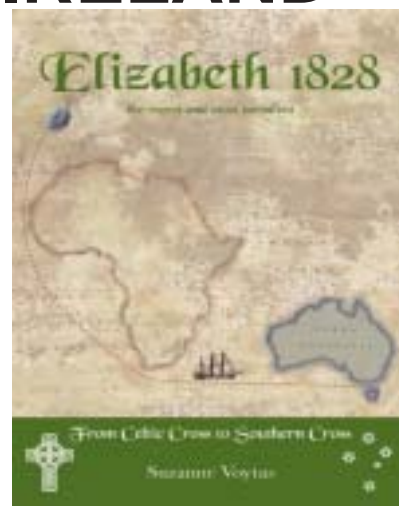
The exhibition will also showcase some of the library's extensive historical photographic collection.

LOCAL RESEARCHER LAUNCHES LATEST BOOK IN IRELAND

Local historian, author and president of Blue Mountains Family History Society, Suzanne Voytas was in Ireland last month to launch her latest book, *Elizabeth 1828*.

The story of the voyage began before they left Ireland. While confined to the Female Convict Depot, the women became two groups and soon were fighting each other, causing extensive damage to the premises.

For everyone's safety, the authorities decided to move one group to the Cork City Gaol. However, within weeks both groups were placed on board their transport, a 527 ton sailing ship.



The only free passengers on board were the Reverend John Vincent, his wife, four young daughters and their female servant.

On arrival, Reverend Vincent lodged a tirade of complaints regarding the women, the crew, the theft of and damage to his personal belongings. These complaints were investigated at a Naval Enquiry. During this enquiry the women were labeled, 'the worst and most turbulent'.

The book *Elizabeth 1828* tells the women's stories and how most of the women were to prove this so wrong, as their lives moved in many directions and they adapted to life in a strange land. Some lived long enough to know their grandchildren; a few became wealthy while some did succumb to unfortunate circumstances and bad habits.

The book cost is \$35 plus postage \$10.

HERITAGE ON THE ROCKS

Artists and photographers portrayed Sydney's early slums in vastly different lights.

In 1902, the art teacher once dubbed one of "the seven greatest living Australians", Julian Ashton persuaded the government to provide a grant of £250 for an artistic record of the streets and communities around Sydney's Rocks.

After the lethal outbreak of the bubonic plague in 1900 the NSW government had announced plans to demolish the slums in the Rocks where disease carrying rats had carried the plague.

Ashton came up with the idea of an exhibition dedicated to 'Old Sydney' and 145 paintings were exhibited at the Society of Artists' rooms in Pitt Street in March 1902.

Ashton's *Argyle Street looking towards the Observatory Hill* was typical of the paintings, 15 of which were chosen for government collections.

Historian Dr Grace Karskens points out the *Old Sydney* artists showed

"the world as it once was, a world without machines, factories or clocks, a small intimate world shaped by hand...It was of course a contrived vision."

But if Ashton and his fellow artists were creating a myth, the official photographer must also be treated with suspicion. For the photographer was specifically commissioned by the government to show the condemned areas in as bleak a light as possible.

About 30 of the original paintings from the 1902 painting now mostly owned by the Art Gallery of NSW, the Mitchell Library or the National Library of Australia form the core of *Painting The Rocks*.

They are supplemented by other paintings, drawings and photographs that tell the story of the Rocks between 1900 and 1932.

Painting the Rocks: The Loss of Old Sydney is at the Museum of Sydney until November 28.

Extract reprinted from an article by Steve Meacham in the *Sydney Morning Herald's Spectrum*

HERITAGE SITES WORKSHOP

A pilot scheme developed by Florence Smart and members of Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society to record changes to heritage sites, will be used at a workshop to be held in Springwood later this month to train members of several historical societies.

Black Diamond – Development of the Western Coalfield 1815 to 1900

Following the publication of two histories of collieries located in the Lithgow region Ray Christison has commenced researching a history of the development of the coal and shale mines of the Western Coalfield from 1815 to 1900.

The year 1900 was chosen as a cut-off as this was a watershed year for the region and saw the demise of a number of significant collieries.

The coal reserves of the Western Coalfield have been identified between the Nepean River in the east and the Goulburn and Talbragar Rivers in the north and west.

In the period covered by Ray's research the principal areas of coalmining activity were centred around Lithgow/Hartley, Katoomba, Wallerawang/Blackmans Flat, Portland/Cullen Bullen and Kandos/Rylstone and Ballimore near Dubbo.

Small ventures were also undertaken in the Grose and Burragorang Valleys, and testing for payable coal undertaken as far east as Sassafras Gully at Springwood.

Ray's intention is to prepare a quality hard cover publication that covers the following areas

- A general description of the coalfield and early exploration.
- Histories of each of the collieries operating between 1838 and 1900.
- Exploration of the relationships between the entrepreneurs who developed the collieries of the region
- Discussion of the development of the mining union in the region and the major industrial disputes that occurred in the region's mines up to 1900.

The book will also contain vignettes of many of the early mine owners, mine managers and union leaders.

In a tribute to those killed in this dangerous occupation Ray also intends to tell the story of each mining death that occurred up to 1900.



Lithgow Valley Colliery c. 1877. Photograph courtesy, The City of Greater Lithgow Mining Museum Inc.

Depending on the success of this work Ray may in future expand his research to develop a second volume covering the early 20th century.

Ray Christison is an archaeologist and heritage consultant operating a heritage consulting business based in Lithgow.

He is president of the City of Greater Lithgow Mining Museum Inc., an individual member of and former member of BMACHO's management committee.

Ray has a particular interest in industrial history and archaeology. and has recently authored two histories of collieries in the Lithgow region.

THE MACQUARIES' PASSION FOR HORSE RACING

Lachlan and Elizabeth Macquarie were passionate about horses and they commissioned convict architect, Francis Greenway, to design the extravagant stables for Government House.

This neo-gothic style building would eventually become the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

Macquarie introduced horse racing to Sydney in what is now Hyde Park in 1810.

With few social activities available in Sydney, Macquarie began a new era in Australian popular culture when he approved the establishment of an annual racing carnival.

He saw the racecourse as a perfect neutral meeting place for colonists

of all classes: military, convict, emancipist and immigrant.

On Monday, October 15, 1810 crowds gathered on the Sydney Racecourse on new public land, which the governor named Hyde Park.

The race program lasted three days and D'Arcy Wentworth's horse, Gig, ridden by his son, William Charles Wentworth, won the three-mile race, marking the beginning of the Wentworth's strong involvement in the Sydney racing scene.

Macquarie letters at State Library

The Governor: Lachlan Macquarie, 1810 to 1821

State Library of NSW Exhibition of Macquarie's letters and more is open until October 10.

WINNERS

Among the winners of the 2010 Blue Mountains, Lithgow, Oberon Tourism awards announced last month was Norman Lindsay Gallery which won the award for heritage cultural tourism.

Meantime, the Hawkesbury Regional Museum has taken out the gold award for cultural and heritage tourism in the Greater Sydney Tourism awards.

The award was accepted by museum curator, Diana Robson, who thanked the many people and organisations who have made the museum such a success, including Hawkesbury Historical Society and Arts NSW, as well as the museum's 54 volunteers.

BMACHO congratulates the Norman Lindsay Gallery & Museum and the Hawkesbury Regional Museum for these well deserved awards

Books launch

The Blue Mountains Historical Society will launch two books: *The Healing Mountains: Tuberculosis in the Blue Mountains, 1882-1959* by the late Gwen Silvey and *Shoulders of Giants: Achievements in History's War on Tuberculosis* by Brian Craven.

The books are to be launched at History House, Royal Australian Historical Society, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney, on Wednesday September 22, 5pm for 5.30pm. RSVP by September 10 to 4757 3824 or bmhs@email.com

Gwen and Brian describe a period that contributed to the development of communities in the Blue Mountains: that of the rehabilitation of tuberculosis sufferers in rented cottages, private homes and then sanatoria during the early 1900s. That enterprise attracted professional and trades people, and their families who needed homes, schools and shops.

Gwen's work is a local history, while Brian's is a broad picture of the medical, social and economic strands in the history of TB and its treatments worldwide, which contributed to the tapestry of change in the mountains.

TEN TUNNELS 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



One of the ten tunnels under construction. Photograph courtesy Lithgow City Library.

The weekend of October 16 -17, 2010 marks 100 years since the opening of the Ten Tunnel rail deviation, a major feat of rail engineering which replaced the Zig Zag Rail system as the main link between Sydney and Central NSW.

A weekend of activities for families and history buffs has been planned, including heritage steam train rides from Lithgow, Katoomba and Wallerawang.

On Saturday, October 16 a heritage diesel locomotive will leave Lithgow and travel to Tarana for dinner at the Tarana Hotel.

The main commemoration of the opening will occur on Sunday October 17, when the NSW Transport Minister, John Robertson MLC, will unveil a plaque at Eskbank House.

Later on that day, Dr Naomi Parry, Lithgow City Council's cultural development officer, will talk about the links between Eskbank House and Eskbank Station, while Mark Langdon, the author of *Conquering the Blue Mountains*, will explain the history and construction of the Ten Tunnels.

Throughout the weekend Eskbank House will display photographs of the engineering works and Lithgow Community Cinema will screen rail documentaries and movies.

The Old Wallerawang Railway Station will host an exhibition of local and regional artists, while the "coffee@thestation" café will serve delicious food and great coffee. For further details contact Lithgow Visitor Information Centre telephone 1300 760 276 or www.tourism.lithgow.com

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER

BMACHO has a new member -- Everglades Historic House and Gardens at Leura. The former Friends of Everglades was a member until its role changed and the National Trust property has now become the member.

Everglades manager, Scott Pollack is always anxious to encourage new volunteers to work at Everglades on a range of tasks at this heritage property.



Springtime at Everglades

Naval pension for Cook's nanny goat

If James Cook felt slighted by the hero's welcome accorded Sir Joseph Banks, he appears to have left no record of it when the *Endeavour* returned to England after circumnavigating the globe a journey of discovery which took almost 3 years.

When the *Endeavour* dropped anchor on July 13, 1771 and Cook prepared to go ashore to report to his London masters, he, the ship and its crew had been away for more than 1000 days and sailed forty thousand miles.

Cook wrote a one line entry in the ship's log, *At 3 o'clock in the PM Anchor'd in the Downs, & soon after I landed in order to repair to London.*

It was the well connected botanist, Joseph Banks who was the toast of society. Ever deferential and diplomatic towards his social betters, Cook modestly accepted his own share of laurels.

Even the only female aboard, the ship's goat, which survived its second circumnavigation enjoyed modest fame. The goat had sailed with Wallis a British sailor who discovered Tahiti.²

Samuel Johnson, (1709 -1784) arguably one of the most distinguished men of letters in English history is said to have composed a piece of Latin doggerel for the animal to wear on its collar.

The verse translates as "The globe twice encircled, this the goat, the second of the nurse of Jove, is thus rewarded for her never-failing milk".

The goat was aboard ship to provide fresh milk for Cook and his officers.

The hardy goat was also given the privileges of a naval pensioner at the Greenwich Hospital and retired to a field near London, where she perished a month after Johnson bestowed his poetry on her.

Cook in a later voyage in *Resolution* while visiting Tonga sought to Anglicise the subtropical landscape

by sowing turnip seeds from England and presenting his hosts with a veritable menagerie: goats, a bull and cow, a boar and sows, a buck and doe and rabbits.

Later, climbing a hill, he mused: "*I could not help flattering myself with the idea that some future navigator may from the very same station behold these Medos [sic] stocked with Cattle the English have planted on these islands.*"



¹ Captain Cook's Endeavour Journal. www.nla.au/pub/endeavour

² Kerl, Nate *Captain James Cook; a life full of adventure triumph and struggle.* www.cptcook.com/cookbio. Compiled by John Leary, OAM

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 Professor 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.

HERITAGE is BMACHO's official newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP The following organisations are members of BMACHO: Blue Mountains City Library, Blue Mountains Cultural Heritage Centre, Blue Mountains Historical Society Inc., Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc., Blue Mountains Tourism Limited, Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute, Cudgegong Museums Group Inc, Everglades Historic House & Gardens, Friends of Norman Lindsay Gallery, Glenbrook & District Historical Society Inc, Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society Inc, Lilianfels Blue Mountains Resort, Lithgow Mining Museum Inc, Lithgow Regional Library – Local Studies, Lithgow Small Arms Factory Museum Inc, Mid-Mountains Historical Society Inc, Mid Western Regional Council Library, Mt Tomah Botanic Gardens, Mt Victoria and District Historical Society Inc, Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine History Society Inc (including Turkish Bath Museum), Mudgee Historical Society Inc, 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 Inc, Transport Signal and Communication Museum Inc., The Darnell Collection Pty Ltd, Valley Heights Locomotive Depot and Museum, Zig Zag Railway Co-op Ltd. The following are individual members: Ray Christison, Associate Professor Ian Jack, Joan Kent, John Leary OAM, John Low, Ian Milliss, Professor Barrie Reynolds, and Dr Peter Stanbury OAM.

COMMITTEE The committee for 2010-11 is: John Leary (president), Ian Jack (vice president), Jan Koperberg (secretary), Kathie McMahon-Nolf (treasurer), Jean Arthur, Joan Kent, Doug Knowles, Dick Morony (public officer), Barrie Reynolds and Peter Stanbury.

HONORARY AUDITOR: Sue McMahon, B Comm CPA.

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