

# HERITAGE

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OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

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## Lapstone Zig Zag railway overcame insurmountable climb

THE LAPSTONE ZIG ZAG was built on the Great Western Railway between 1863 and 1865, to overcome an otherwise insurmountable climb up the eastern side of the Blue Mountains.

The ruling grade was already very steep at 1 in 33 (3%). The original plan had been to build the whole line across the Blue Mountains on a completely different route through the Grose Valley with a 3 km long tunnel, but this was beyond the resources of the state of New South Wales at the time.

The zig zag track included a now abandoned station called Lucasville which was built for the Minister for Mines, John Lucas who had a holiday home nearby.

The rail route across the mountains reached as far as Wentworth Falls (then called Weatherboard) by 1867 but the Lapstone Zig Zag, soon ran into problems: the distance between the top points and bottom points limited the length of trains. The single track also meant that trains travelling in opposite directions had to stop at crossing points.



*An early steam engine on the Lapstone viaduct drawing empty sheep wagons returning from Homebush saleyards. Image: 'Full Steam Ahead Across the Mountains' by Peter Belbin and David Burke. Methuen 1981 page 28*



*The Lapstone Zig Zag viaduct. Photograph by John Leary, OAM . May 2011*

The first crossing point after Lapstone Zig Zag was at Wascoe's Siding at what is now Glenbrook. The single track would contribute to a fatal accident at Emu Plains in 1878 where eastbound and westbound goods trains collided.

The deviation including a tunnel was built around 1890 to replace zig zag, but it too experienced problems as it was built at too steep a grade, causing the locomotives to slip.

Smoke also became a problem for uphill trains.

By 1910, the line was being duplicated (made into double track) and the "rathole" tunnel was replaced on a different deviation and the Glenbrook tunnel built.

From then the lower section of the track, including the historic Knapsack Gully viaduct, was converted into a road, the Great Western Highway until the M4 expressway replaced it in the mid 1990s.

The older tunnel was converted for mushroom growing but was also used by the RAAF for storage during World War 2. During 1943 to 1946 Glenbrook tunnel stored chemical weapons.

The line of the old track and cuttings (including the long abandoned platform of Lucasville station), and the old Knapsack Gully bridge is now a popular bushwalking track.

This article was compiled by John Leary, OAM.  
Source: [www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lapstone\\_Zig\\_Zag](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lapstone_Zig_Zag)

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**An opinion from the editor.....**

## Is it time to engage more with the world's oldest living cultural heritage?

**OFTEN WHEN THE CULTURAL** heritage of the Australian Aboriginal is discussed, it is done so, in almost hushed tones as if those who have come to this country since the European colonisation, are either ashamed of the treatment received by the indigenous people or alternatively that this culture reaching back almost 50,000 years, is so bound up in mystery that its exploration is just too difficult.

In Australia, indigenous communities keep their cultural heritage alive by passing their knowledge, arts, rituals and performances from one generation to another with land being fundamental to the wellbeing of Aboriginal people.

Of course, there are many genuinely sensitive issues that create unavoidable barriers in a wider communication.

There are those who consider the Australian Aboriginal cultural heritage has been too politicised and it is reasonable to accept there are antagonists, activists and apologists who have inflamed the subject with the result that this rich cultural heritage is not properly understood by generations of new comers to this continent.

On the other hand there are organisations such as the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies which have done much to open up discourse

In most local history societies there is a passing reference to the indigenous people in the records and the research undertaken by the societies' members; but with the exception of those groups established by Australian Aboriginal people and a few academics there seems to be very little real information and research available in this region.

BMACHO in its constitution uses the definition: 'Cultural heritage is all aspects of life of the peoples of [this region]'.

Put more adequately, cultural heritage is seen as 'the total ways of living built up by a group of human beings, which is passed from one generation to the next, given to them by reason of their birth'.

Aboriginal cultures are complex and diverse. The indigenous cultures of Australia are the oldest living cultural history in the world - they go back at least 50,000 years and some argue closer to 65,000 years.

One of the reasons Aboriginal cultures have survived for so long is their ability to adapt and change over time. It was this affinity with their surroundings that goes a long way to explaining how Aboriginal people survived for so many millennia.

The apparently simple lifestyle of Aboriginal people also resulted in two misconceptions - that Aboriginal people were culturally uniform, (despite having 600 languages) and that they had so little attachment to the land, and made so little use of it that James Cook could practise the sleight of hand of describing the continent as terra nullius (empty land) even though his landings were opposed with spears and fire<sup>1</sup>

Archaeological work in Australia has led to the gradual discovery that Aboriginal people had indeed, as they said, been here a very long time. Both the Dharug and Gundungurra people are known to have inhabited this region well before the coming of Europeans and a great many of them still live in the Blue Mountains region.

Perhaps it is now time for organisations such as BMACHO to encourage local historians and those interested in cultural heritage to better engage with those living members of the indigenous people so that assistance may be provided for future generations.

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

<sup>1</sup> Horton, DR, *Unity and Diversity: The history and culture of Aboriginal Australia*

# Local historian provides images for Hazelbrook community mural

LOCAL HISTORIAN Ken Goodlet (pictured) points out features of historical interest on the new eastern wall mural of the underpass west of Hazelbrook Station.

The section of the mural in this picture shows from left, Joseph and Florence Taggart's woodcutter's hut of 1912 from where they conducted their wood carrying and saw bench business on the north western corner of the Great Western Highway and Oaklands Road, Hazelbrook.

Behind Ken Goodlet is young Ivy and Hazel Denham with Minnie Adams on the first Hazelbrook Station, about 1900

On the left of the mural are an indigenous rock image of a kangaroo, found near Queens Rd Lawson and a rock hands-painting from a site north of Hazelbrook (not in picture).

To the right of the Hazelbrook Station image is, the first



Hazelbrook service station, in snow, late 1920s; and Carl and Emma Liebrand working on their Oaklands Farm, around 1900.

This is all set against a backdrop of bushfires, a constant preoccupation of local residents.

Funded by the state government and local councillors, resourced by the Hazelbrook Association members, and guided by local artist Michael Lynn, young people designed and painted the mural. Photograph by John Leary, OAM August 2011

## THE GENTLE ART OF PREPARING GRANT APPLICATIONS

A practical guide to the planning and completion of heritage grant applications and how to avoid some of the pitfalls. Plus dealing with what comes next.

A free seminar to be given by Barrie Reynolds, BMACHO's grants officer

Tuesday, 4 October, 2011, from 10 am to 12.30.  
Refreshments.

Location: Blue Mountains Historical Society, Hobby's Reach, 99-101 Blaxland Road Wentworth Falls.

Prior registration essential.

Further information and registration:  
Phone/email Barrie Reynolds, 4757 4725  
[barrie.r@bigpond.net.au](mailto:barrie.r@bigpond.net.au)

## RAHS HAS NEW CEO

THE ROYAL Australian Historical Society (RAHS) has a new CEO, Maria Walsh

President of the RAHS, Professor David Carment said, "Ms Walsh's appointment follows the 2010 RAHS Organisational Review.

"With a wealth of experience in both the not-for-profit and corporate sectors, Maria brings to the society the leadership skills to take us into the next phase of our development."

"I am honoured to have been appointed to lead this truly magnificent and unique organisation," said Maria Walsh.

"I have worked with national volunteer-based organisations and I pay tribute to the passion and community spirit of the 33,000 volunteers who work tirelessly for the benefit of the RAHS' association members."



# A gift to the horses of Lawson

By John Low

THERE ARE SEVERAL early photographs of Douglass Square in Lawson where the shops and the Blue Mountain Hotel are prominently depicted.

My eye, nevertheless, is always drawn to the centre foreground where a horse hitched to a cart is drinking from a water trough at the edge of a grass plot near the intersection of Honour Avenue and the Western Road.

The trough was handed over to the town at a small ceremony in early December 1921 by prominent Lawson resident and former Lord Mayor of Sydney, RD Meagher.

He was standing in for his wife, Alice, who had initiated and funded the project but was too ill to attend.

The central place occupied by the horse trough in these photographs underscores the important function it performed in the community at the time.

In the years following World War I, working horses were still an everyday sight on the streets of our cities and towns and their welfare remained an object of a compassionate concern that had begun in earnest with the establishment of the NSW Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals\* in 1873.

An important component of this concern had always been the provision of appropriate watering facilities.

While city and municipal authorities were lobbied regularly and offered practical advice and designs, the society also solicited contributions from its own supporters to finance the erection of troughs and encouraged its more affluent members to personally donate horse troughs in their local areas.

Even as late as 1919 the society was still reporting in its annual report that "much remains to be done". Its pleas found a responsive benefactor in Mrs RD Meagher.



*The Lawson horse trough. Photograph by John Low 2007*

Alice Maude Osmond was born in New Zealand ca.1862 to Mary (nee Marsh) and John Osmond, a brewery manager.

She appears to have crossed the Tasman in the late 1880s and may have been the Miss A Osmond who ran a tobacconist business in Hunter Street, Sydney, during the years 1889 to 1891, though this has not been confirmed.

On January 26, 1891, aged 29, she married a young (25) Bathurst-born solicitor, Richard Denis Meagher, at St Francis Church, Paddington. The couple established their home, 'Fernleigh', in Bennett Street, Bondi.

RD Meagher, a devout Irish Catholic with political ambitions and a flair for flowery and sometimes caustic oratory, was by this time already an identity around town.

Employed in the legal firm of another pugnacious Irish Catholic, William 'Paddy' Crick, he became a partner in 1892 and won a seat in parliament in 1895.

Life for the wife of this 'colourful' figure was never going to be easy and in the ensuing years she weathered a number of very public storms blown up by the

"cantankerous" nature of her husband's temperament.

In the early years of their marriage, Meagher's flawed handling of the defence of George Dean, a ferry boat captain accused of poisoning his wife, dragged them into financial ruin and public humiliation when, in 1896, he was charged with conspiracy, struck off the roll of solicitors and forced to resign his seat in parliament.

Then, in 1898, as he was just beginning to re-establish his political career, he took offence at a comment by the even more 'colourful' John Norton, editor of the *Truth* newspaper.

Armed with a greenhide whip, Meagher ambushed the hapless editor at lunch time in Pitt Street and proceeded to thrash him severely.

Norton took refuge behind a lamp post, drew his revolver and fired at the fleeing politician who leapt into a passing cab and escaped.

The episode caused a sensation and Alice, already a veteran of defending her house from besieging journalists, must have despaired of ever leading a normal life.

Meagher, nevertheless, escaped gaol again and continued to rebuild a career which, in subsequent years, followed a long trajectory of service in both local government, the NSW State Parliament and, though not reinstated to the roll of solicitors until 1920, the law.

## ...escaped gaol again to rebuild a career in politics...

Throughout this very public life their marriage remained solid, resting clearly upon a strong foundation of mutual devotion.

Added to the worries of her husband's occasional public transgressions, Alice's health had always been fragile.

Despite this, she played her part in public life with enthusiasm and commitment.

During the time her husband served as Sydney's first Labor Lord Mayor (1916-17) she opened the new



**Lord Mayoress of Sydney, Mrs RD Meagher ca 1917 Portrait**  
courtesy City of Sydney Archives

Anzac Parade (1917) and her name is inscribed on the memorial obelisk.

As lady mayoress she supported her husband's efforts to raise men and money for the war and, when a transport strike erupted during the second year of his term, embarked upon a tireless fund-raising campaign to relieve the distress of the strikers' families.

In 1920, hoping that his wife might benefit from the upland climate and clean mountain air, Richard Meagher purchased 'Yarrowee', a substantial sandstone cottage on 5 acres of land fronting the Western Road at Lawson.

They renamed their new country home 'Durham Lodge' and even here, though increasingly an invalid, Alice's social conscience found further expression.

Few passing swagmen, tramping the Western Road in search of work, left her door empty-handed. Also, as a life member of the NSW SPCA, she soon spotted the absence of a community horse trough.

In August 1921 she approached the Blue Mountains Shire Council with an offer to cover the cost of a water trough for the horses of Lawson.

Council agreed and instructed its engineer to prepare an appropriate design. By December it had been erected and, following the small dedication ceremony already mentioned, became operational.

Uncommented upon but common to many troughs of the period, it also seems to have incorporated a lower basin to satisfy the thirst of the local dogs.

At both ends marble plaques bearing the following inscription were attached:

"For the Dumb Friends of Man  
Presented to the  
Blue Mountains Shire Council  
By Mrs. R. D. Meagher  
Lawson – 1921"

Alice Meagher died just over two years later, on the evening of Wednesday April 9, 1924 at the Lewisham Private Hospital. Her funeral was held at the Church of

Mary Immaculate, Waverley, on the following Friday afternoon and she was buried in Waverley Cemetery.

Both Alice and Richard Meagher were devout Catholics and, having no children, made plans to use their property for the benefit of their religion.

Alice especially wanted part of their land at Lawson to become the site for a new Catholic Church and hoped that ultimately 'Durham Lodge' would go to the Franciscans.

While the latter was not to be, following her death her husband purchased the neighbouring property, donated both it and 'Durham Lodge' to the church, and helped finance the building of a substantial church dedicated to Our Lady of the Nativity.

The new church was consecrated on April 7, 1929 and stands as a memorial to the life of Alice Meagher, "a good citizen, philanthropist and an ever-willing worker in all public causes".

Her horse trough was later moved to the eastern side of Honour Avenue and may soon, I understand, be relocated again as part of the current refurbishment of Douglass Square.

Hopefully, it too will stand for many years to come as a further, if more humble, memorial to her compassion and concern for animals.

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# Horse trough to move to Douglass Square Lawson

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\* Formed in 1873 as the NSW Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, it became the Animal Protection Society NSW in 1879. It reverted to its original title again in 1918 before being granted permission to use 'Royal' in 1923 and becoming the organisation we know today as the RSPCA.

## Rail Museum needs volunteers

VOLUNTEERS ARE REQUIRED to work in the Valley Heights Locomotive Heritage Depot Museum Shop. Some experience with cash handling, catering, food handling or customer service would be an advantage but is not essential.

All training will be provided.

The role involves ticket sales to customers, retail sales of the museum's range of souvenirs and memorabilia, as well as refreshments including tea/coffee and light snacks.

The museum is looking for diligent and reliable people with a friendly outgoing nature who like dealing with people.

The museum is open on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, as well as additional Sundays during public holidays from 10am to 4pm.

Volunteers working in the shop would be expected to be available from 8.30am to approximately 4.30pm on open days. You will be expected to be available to be rostered every 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> open day.

Anyone interested in this voluntary opportunity should, Steve Corrigan on 4759 1980 or [sjc\\_alco@pnc.com.au](mailto:sjc_alco@pnc.com.au)



*The Lawson shopping centre circa 1920s. In the centre foreground a horse hitched to a cart, drinking from the water trough.*

## Land records workshop

A LAND RECORDS workshop will be conducted on Sunday, October 16, 2011 for members of BMACHO.

The workshop will be held at the Blue Mountains Historical Society Hobby's Reach Research Rooms, 99-101 Blaxland Road, Wentworth Falls commencing at 1.30 pm to 2.30 pm (approx presentation time).

Digital technology has revolutionised the way historians can research land.

It is now possible to find cadastral information online for any piece of land in NSW, and to trace its ownership, at least under Torrens Title, via the web.

Within the next four years, Old System Title records, as well as the vast resources of the Lands Department, maps, plans and survey records, will also be available on the internet.

Libraries and archives too, led by the National Library of Australia, have active map digitisation programs.

The Royal Australian Historical Society has designed a workshop for local and family historians to demonstrate how to find these resources and use them in research.

A benefactor who believes in the importance of community history

has generously supported the workshop, and this donation has allowed the RAHS to run the workshop for historians and members of its affiliated societies in locations across NSW.

The presenter for this workshop, Lesley Muir is a librarian, and senior vice-president of the Royal Australian Historical Society, with thirty years' experience in land research.

She has a PhD in historical geography from the University of Sydney; her thesis, *Shady Acres: Politicians, Developers and the Design of Sydney's Public Transport System 1873-1895*, was about the growth of Sydney and its suburbs in the late Victorian era.

Admission to the workshop will be by gold coin donation to Blue Mountains Historical Society. Afternoon tea will be provided, at participants expense, \$3 or \$5, by members of BMHS

The presentation on USB stick can be purchased for the price of the USB stick, on the day and then societies or organisation can practice at their own leisure.

Those wishing to attend, should contact Jan Koperberg by phoning 02 4754 1544 or email [bmacho.heritage@gmail.com](mailto:bmacho.heritage@gmail.com)



# Governor appoints French exile as ambassador to king of the mountains

PROLOGUE. When I set out to write this piece about Francis Louis Barrallier who explored the Blue Mountains some 11 years before the three explorers who have been credited with the being the first Europeans to cross the Blue Mountains, I started by researching his Journal.

Barrallier's Journal although detailed in many places was for me tantalisingly ambiguous. I turned then to Andy Macqueen's *The life and journeys of Barrallier* only to be totally absorbed in the delightful style of this Blue Mountain's historian and narrator. So much so, that some of which follows is direct quotes from his book.



The fascination surrounding Barrallier has been heightened by the fact that his Blue Mountains route lay in country which is still wild today.<sup>1</sup> Much of it is now of course, the Blue Mountains World Heritage site.

Having bushwalked this country from the Nattai across to Yeranderie well before the Warragamba Dam was built isolating this silver mining village, then down into the swift flowing Kowmung's pebble strewn bed to camp overnight at its junction with Christys Creek, on to the tumbling Johnston Falls and finally to view the splendour of the sandstone Kanangra Walls from the valley floor; like Andy Macqueen, I too have encountered the spirit of the Mountain King albeit some 148 years later than Barrallier.

... John Leary OAM

A FRENCH FUGITIVE from the early days of the notorious career of Napoleon Bonaparte, who went on to create over two decades of turmoil in Europe, Francis Louis Barrallier (1773-1853) was to make his mark in Australian history in the short, 34 months he was in the colony.

Barrallier was to explore several areas of the colony, but it is his trek into the Blue Mountains, from the south near the Nattai River some 11 years before the three explorers who are credited with being the first Europeans to cross the Blue Mountains, which has created most interest.

He didn't succeed in crossing the Blue Mountains, but nor did others and when it was eventually done it was by a far easier route than that chosen for Barrallier's exploration.

Francois Barrallier was the son of a French naval surveyor, presumably

with royalist sympathies who after the capture of Toulon, an important Mediterranean strategic naval base, in 1793 was evacuated with his father and two brothers, Joseph and Peter.

He and his brothers were off-loaded in Italy. However, his father soon found employment with the British Navy as a surveyor.

Francis was not at first so lucky as his father, but his father appears to have had connections with the English aristocracy which led to the then 26 year old, Francis being able to travel in late 1799 to the fledgling colony of New South Wales with the newly appointed governor, Phillip Gidley King.

Barrallier arrived in Port Jackson on board the whaler *Speedy* on April 15, 1800 a mere 12 years after the colony was first founded then the New South Wales Corps (aka The Rum Corps) had assumed an

influential role in the administration of the colony.

It had been formed in England in 1789 as a permanent regiment to relieve the marines who had accompanied the First Fleet to Australia.

Because of the remoteness and unpopularity of the posting they were composed of officers on half pay, troublemakers, soldiers paroled from military prisons and those with few prospects, who were gambling on making a life for themselves in the new colony.

Many were incompetent or corrupt and most seem to have been involved in private dealings. These same officers were to serve as magistrates.<sup>2</sup>

At the heart of the problem was the notorious rum trade and Governor Hunter who was in office when Barrallier arrived, was finding himself powerless to control the situation which deteriorated further under the new governor, King.

This was the climate to which Barrallier who spoke little or no English arrived.

In July, 1800 because of the lack of commissioned officers available for duty, the governor appointed Barrallier an ensign in the New South Wales Corps, 'until His Majesty's pleasure be known'.



*The Anglo-Spanish fleet entering Toulon in 1793*

### ***Continued from page 7***

According to Andy Macqueen's research despite the privileges, Barrallier did not like being in the army.

Clearly he thought he had better things to do with his life than put up with the types of men who dominated the military.

Perhaps he was too proud and arrogant for them; more likely, as a loner, he simply did not want to fit in with the military culture.<sup>3</sup>

Barrallier soon began to make a name for himself as an explorer, in March 1801 accompanying Lieutenant James Grant on the *Lady Nelson* to further explore Bass Strait.

He was responsible for charting Western Port the large tidal bay in south eastern Victoria.

The bay opening into Bass Strait was first seen by George Bass in 1798 mapping the coast between Wilson's Promontory and Western Port.

In June a voyage with Grant was made to the Hunter River, where Barrallier made a survey of Coal River (Newcastle).

Within a further two months the governor appointed him acting engineer and artillery officer in place of Captain Edward Abbot who had resigned.

His duties involved the maintenance and improvement of Sydney's defences.

He designed the citadel, Fort Phillip, which King planned to build on the highest windmill hill in Sydney.

There had been several recorded attempts by Europeans to cross the Blue Mountains in the 14 years before Barrallier came along, the earliest being by Lieutenant Dawes in 1789 who had got as far as Mount Twiss near Linden.

In 1793 Colonel Paterson had tried to sail up the Grose River but was stopped by boulder strewn rapids. Hacking, in 1794 was reported to have penetrated 'further than anyone before'.



***Kanangra Walls. Had Barrallier followed available ridge routes from the Kowmung River, he could have reached here and gone on to cross the mountains near Jenolan Caves and Oberon. Photograph courtesy James Lamb 2002***

In 1795 Everingham, Ramsay and Reid may have reached Mount Irvine.

**‘  
...their  
supposed  
easy road to  
China did not  
exist.’**

From the south in 1796 Bass seems to have tackled the mountains in the same general direction as Barrallier.

The emancipated convict Wilson made two trips in 1798 towards Goulburn.

These were ordered by Governor Hunter who wanted to prove to some troublesome Irish convicts that their supposed easy road to China did not exist.<sup>4</sup>

Next came Barrallier who Governor King had originally planned to send into the mountains in March 1802, but the journey was deferred because of wet weather.

Barrallier actually made two expeditions to the mountains.

The first was a reconnaissance for the main expedition and took place in September or early October 1802.

He with six or seven European men, two Aborigines and two horses appear to have set off from Richmond.

He headed southward up the Nepean River valley, presumably looking for an obvious break in the mountains.

Eventually, after travelling more than 50 kilometres, he turned westward, crossing the Razorback range between Camden and Picton.

He then discovered the Nattai River before returning by a more direct route to Parramatta.

He decided that the depot for his main expedition should be located at a place called 'Nattai', some 13 kilometres from Picton.<sup>5</sup>

About this time disputes between King and the New South Wales Corps caused Colonel William Paterson to demand Barrallier's return to regimental duty and in deference to Paterson's protest, the governor relieved Barrallier of his extra-regimental duties on October 8, 1802.

However, ten days after ordering Barrallier back to the regiment, King appointed him his aide-de-camp, and so made it possible for him to be sent exploring again.



### **Continued from page 8**

For some reason, perhaps to tweak the noses of the New South Wales Corps, in order to get his way King resorted to a rather comical subterfuge: he pulled rank on Paterson, claimed Barrallier as his aide-de-camp and 'sent him on an embassy to the King of the Mountains' although the governor clearly had the objective of finding a crossing.<sup>6</sup>

Barrallier's second expedition left Parramatta on November 4, 1802 with a wagon drawn by two bullocks, which was to take supplies as far as the Nattai depot the site selected on the previous expedition.

The party comprised Barrallier, four soldiers, five convicts and the Aborigine Gogy with his wife and child. Gogy was the best known of the Dharawal.

He had been outlawed from his clan for killing and had taken refuge with Goondel's family. Goondel's hospitality did not incur long lasting gratitude.

Gogy and three of his people caught a woman from Goondel's clan near Nattai, tied her to a tree and killed her, removing some flesh.<sup>7</sup>

Later there may have been as many as 20 at the depot and it is to Barrallier's credit that there was no uprisings, desertions or serious incidents other than that which involved Gogy's wife.<sup>8</sup>

Their route took them past the site of Campbelltown (to be named by Governor Macquarie in honour of his wife's maiden name) then crossing the Nepean River near Menangle.

Skirting the Razorback Range they passed Picton arriving at the depot on November 9.

En route they encountered Aborigines who had never before seen white men and expressed fear and astonishment at Barrallier and his wagon with wheels.<sup>9</sup>

At the depot several bark huts had been constructed with the assistance of the Aborigines.

As the party travelled without tents bark huts were used for shelter on

most every day during the expedition.

From the depot, Barrallier made three separate excursions down to the Nattai River which was followed to the junction of the Wollondilly River.

On the first of these excursions he met up with a party of Aborigines, including the tribal chief Goondel.

## **Barrallier recorded day-to-day life of Aborigines**



He had hoped to obtain advice about the route across the mountains from one of the chief's men but a quarrel developed between Gogy and Goondel's people, apparently because of Gogy's earlier involvement in the murder of a woman from Goondel's tribe.

Barrallier valued Gogy's service highly so they returned to the depot without the advice he hoped to have gained.

Barrallier's second excursion left from the depot on November 22, took 12 days and was his most significant.

This time the party consisted of Barrallier, five of his men and two young Aborigines Badbury and Le Tonsure. The latter so-named by

Barrallier because of the hairless patch on his head, when his mother dropped him in a fire when he was a baby.

By the fourth night out from the depot the party thought they were virtually through the mountains but they were soon to be disillusioned.

On the fifth night out they camped nearby to the junction of the Kowmung and Christys Creek.<sup>10</sup>

The spot represents a favourite camp site of the more intrepid bushwalkers of today, as the Kowmung River remains one of the few virtually pristine rivers in the Sydney region.

On the morning of November 27, Barrallier sent two men up one of the adjoining mountains; on their return they reported that it was hopeless to follow the ridges as all that could be seen were separate and unjoined mountains.

Had the party climbed Joalash Mountain, on the other side of Christys Creek and followed the Boyd Range — or indeed had they followed the Bullhead Ridge on which the men stood, a viable route would have been found.

They continued on to follow Christys Creek to Wheengee Whungee Creek which they then negotiated until they reached what is now Johnston Falls which Barrallier inspected and decided they were impassable.

Returning to the Kowmung, they camped the night returning to the Nattai depot 5 days later.

And so Barrallier and his party had reached a point further west than Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson would do almost 11 years later.

Andy Macqueen in his book, *The life and journeys of Barrallier 1773-1853* observes; 'Perhaps, Barrallier's journal has been more noted for its extensive and detailed observations of the Aborigines who accompanied him or whom he met, than for its description of the route.

'Barrallier's writing is quoted or referred to in a variety of works concerning the Aboriginal culture of the region.'

**Continued from page 10**

'Apart from numerous colourful descriptions of the day-to-day life of the Aborigines, such as in hunting and food gathering, he has much to say about their behaviour and character.

'A prime subject for this is his assistant Gogy, who in the end proved much trouble to Barrallier.

'Firstly, there was the episode in which Gogy became terrified of the chief Goondel and his men, apparently because Gogy had previously been involved in the murder of a woman from Goondel's tribe — possibly Goondel's own sister.

'In order to appease Gogy [Barrallier] was forced to terminate the first excursion.

'Later, Gogy went into a lengthy rage in the belief that one of Barrallier's men had seduced his wife.

'Gogy clubbed his wife severely, at one stage knocking her out and speared her in the thighs. This whole episode makes appalling reading.'

There is no reason to doubt the veracity of Barrallier's description of such events.

## ...epitaph of a proud people...



An Aboriginal mia mia [bark hut] and encampment by an unknown artist. *The above drawing and the one on the preceding page appeared in 'Historic Blue Mountains 1813-1938' published by the Blue Mountains Shire Council.*

He simply recorded them honestly in the same way he recorded his fear of the cliffs or the nature of the vegetation. But he was clearly fascinated and shocked.<sup>11</sup>

Macqueen's view of Barrallier as an observer is shared by Ross Brownscombe in his book, *On Suspect Terrain* where he writes about the extensive descriptions by Barrallier of the Australians of the Nattai and Wollondilly Rivers.

'These were made at a time when the indigenous owners of what would later become known as the Cumberland Plain and Burratorang Valley were on the cusp of oblivion, in the fading years of their mastery of the region.

'What Barrallier captures is the epitaph of a proud people not yet corrupted, not yet pathetic, still immersed in the normal rhythms of their culture.'

'His journal is unique in the annals of early Australian exploration in that the land he explores is inhabited, occupied by people using its productions, manipulating the environment and he takes the trouble to distinguish them, to give each an individuality, with physical [the Aborigine Le Tonsure] and psychological idiosyncrasies and characteristics.'<sup>12</sup>

Barrallier might not have found a way over the mountains for King but in Macqueen's belief, Barrallier went to see the King of the Mountains.

In a sense he found him. He found that spirit of the earth which conjured up dreadful barriers and hardships, but at the same time tantalized him with glimpses of beauty and mystery. Untouched by "civilized man".

Barrallier was to fall out with Governor King and left the colony on May 17 or 18, 1803, the colony having been in some turmoil in the months after Barrallier's return from the Blue Mountains.

King had fallen out with the senior officers of the Corps and had been subjected to a campaign of slander.

Even though the British were no longer at war with the French there were many who believed all Frenchmen in the colony were spies.

Barrallier had continued to be King's aide-de-camp while still being an officer of the Corps and so Barrallier somehow became involved in one of King's many crises.

Whatever the real circumstances concerning Barrallier's resignation from the Corps it seems he was treated unjustly.

He returned to England and three years later at the age of 33 set sail for the West Indies where he remained for 11 years.

In May 1805, he was appointed a lieutenant in the 90th Regiment, and served at St Vincent in 1806, where he improved the defences.

In 1809 he became a captain in the 101st Regiment, and as assistant engineer was present at the capture of Martinique.

He was appointed aide-de-camp to the commander-in-chief in 1809.

He participated in the invasion of Guadeloupe in 1810, and in 1812 was ordered to make a military map of Barbados, which took him five years to complete.

In 1813 he was appointed deputy assistant quartermaster general under Sir James Leith, next year he was present at the second attack on Guadeloupe, which led to its capture, and then was appointed surveyor-general of Guadeloupe.

# Valley Heights rail depot centenary

THE VALLEY HEIGHTS locomotive depot will be 100 years old in December 2013.

Already a centenary committee of the Blue Mountains Division, NSW Rail Transport Museum is planning celebrations which will run through from December 2013 until July 2014.



It is proposed that a series of day events will run over the 8 months period.

The events being scheduled include a number of train visits from fellow heritage operators running tours to Valley Heights, opportunities to operate shuttle services for locals, Lapstone Zig Zag walks, model railway exhibition, railway film weekend, to name a few.

Celebrations will 'officially' kick off in January 2014 when dignitaries will be invited to officially open the museum. The committee has set dates for these events which will be subject to funding.

To engage the interest of local and corporate businesses the

committee is working on a business plan to sell the attractions of the museum, the historical significance of the locomotive depot and the centenary events.

The Roundhouse closed as an operating depot in 1988 and a dedicated membership has maintained this heritage property.



Valley Heights depot circa 1950s

## Barrallier died aged 80

*Continued from page 10*

In 1817 he returned to London and, after various periods of service in the 33rd Regiment and 25th Light Dragoons on and off half-pay, he became a brevet major in 1830 and a brevet lieutenant-colonel in 1846.

On July 31, 1819 he had married Isobel Skyrme at St Mary's, Lambeth, Surrey. He died on June 11, 1853 at his home in London, at the age of 80.<sup>13</sup>

### FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Macqueen, Andy, *Blue Mountains to Bridgetown. The life and journeys of Barrallier 1773 – 1853* Andy Macqueen 1993, p6.

<sup>2</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New\\_South\\_Wales\\_Corps](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_South_Wales_Corps)

<sup>3</sup> Macqueen, Andy, *Blue Mountains to Bridgetown. The life and journeys of Barrallier 1773 – 1853*, p.34.

<sup>4</sup> *ibid.*, p.67.

<sup>5</sup> *ibid.*, p.69.

<sup>6</sup> *On suspect terrain*, Journals of Exploration in the Blue Mountains 1795-1820 selected and edited by Ross Brownscombe, p.89.

<sup>7</sup> Liston, Carol, *Campbelltown – the bicentennial history*, Council of the City of Campbelltown 1988, p.6.

<sup>8</sup> Macqueen, Andy, *Blue Mountains to Bridgetown. The life and journeys of Barrallier 1773 – 1853*, p.72.

<sup>9</sup> *ibid.*, p.74.

<sup>10</sup> Barrallier, Francis, 1773-1853, *Journal of the expedition into the Interior of New South Wales in 1802: by order of His Excellency Governor Philip Gidley King/ by Francis Barrallier*. Marsh Walsh

Publishing, Melbourne. 1975.

<sup>11</sup> Macqueen, Andy, *Blue Mountains to Bridgetown. The life and journeys of Barrallier 1773 – 1853*, p.94.

<sup>12</sup> *On Suspect Terrain*, Journals of Exploration in the Blue Mountains 1795-1820 selected and edited by Ross Brownscombe, p.21.

<sup>13</sup> <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/barrallier-francis-louis-1745>

The brief commentary of this article acknowledges the plotting of Barrallier's exploration by RH Cabbage, R Else-Mitchell, Ernest Moxley, Alan EJ Andrews, Chris Cunningham and Ross Brownscombe.

Although there is much speculation most of it having been tested on the ground as to the exact route of Barrallier's trips, I particularly acknowledge the veracity of the conclusions Andy Macqueen has arrived at in his text, *Blue Mountains to Bridgetown. The life and journeys of Barrallier 1773 – 1853*. I appreciate and thank Andy for his assistance in, as he puts it, 'giving the Barrallier story another dusting off.' Unfortunately his book is out of print and no longer available for purchase.

I also thank Jan Koperberg for her continued assistance in sourcing images from the NSW State Library, the National Library of Australia and elsewhere.

## Miles Franklin, her life and legacy

PROFESSOR JILL ROE the guest speaker at the October 1 meeting of the Blue Mountains Historical Society has chosen as her subject, Miles Franklin, Her Life and Legacy

Professor Roe is a leading authority on the life and work of Miles Franklin.

In this talk, scheduled to commence at 10am, she will present highlights of Miles Franklin's adventurous life and offer an outline of her legacies, with particular reference to the Miles Franklin Literary Award, by now Australia's most illustrious (and sometimes contentious) literary prize.

Jill Roe's prize-winning biography, *Stella Miles Franklin: A Life*, is now available in paperback and as an e-book and she has recently published a new edition of *My Congenials: Miles Franklin and Friends in Letters*.

For further information contact Susan Warmbath, 4757 3402 or John Low, 4782 3751



# Former Governor who visited Springwood for golf 'outed' and banished

by Pamela Smith

WHAT DO EVELYN WAUGH'S novel *Brideshead Revisited*; the Honorable William Lygon, 7<sup>th</sup> Earl Beauchamp (Governor of New South Wales 1899-1901), and Hugh D McIntosh (the controversial boxing promoter/entrepreneur and parliamentarian) have in common.

More precisely, what have they to do with Springwood? An article in the *Nepean Times* provided a clue.

On March 11, 1933 the *Nepean Times* related how, on Saturday February 25, the Right Honorable. Earl Beauchamp KC drove the first ball when he conducted the official opening of the *Bon Accord Golf Links* at Springwood.<sup>1</sup>

Among the well-heeled guests were locals Dr and Mrs Baxter, Percy Dawson, David Rogalsky and the Blue Mountains shire president, Councillor Percy Wilson.<sup>2</sup> Other guests included Hugh Lygon (Beauchamp's son), the well known Macquarie Street specialist, Dr. Sydney Jones and wife and Mrs. White who was the sister of Sir Daniel Levy.<sup>3</sup>

It had been barely two years since William Lygon, who, in his bachelor days served as the Governor of NSW, had been outed and banished from England because of his homosexual inclinations.

Jane Mulvagh suggested, in recent years, in an article entitled *The*

*Scandal that shook Brideshead*, that Evelyn Waugh used William Lygon as his model for 'Lord Marchmain' and son Hugo as the model for 'Sebastian'.<sup>4</sup> Mulvagh stated the Lygons - who provided the inspiration for the 'doomed aristocratic family in Waugh's novel' - put up a united front (except for his wife) when William was outed in June 1931.<sup>5</sup>

William had married Lady Lettice Mary Elizabeth Grosvenor in 1902, the daughter of Earl Grosvenor and accounts of his life, despite his sexual proclivities, credit William with being a loving husband and a devoted father to his seven children.<sup>6</sup>

Nevertheless, fearing the outcome of the scandal on his friend, King George entrusted Lord Stanmore and two other Knights of the Garter, with the task of presenting William with very limited options.

He was advised to resign from all his official posts and leave England immediately because if he remained the assured alternative would have been imminent arrest, a trial in the House of Lords and certain imprisonment. Homosexuality was still a criminal offence.

William did consider suicide but eventually fled to Wiesbaden where he was convinced by members of his family to put all thoughts of ending his life aside.<sup>7</sup>



**Lord Beauchamp as Governor of NSW in 1899. Drawing by Leslie Ward**

Sadly, William thought that his exile would be short-lived, but David Dutton observed that in the years that followed William lived a 'somewhat pathetic peripatetic existence'.<sup>8</sup>

Evelyn Waugh - an Oxford friend to one of William's sons - arrived at *Madresfield* shortly after his departure and later immortalised the Lygons in the novel *Brideshead Revisited*.<sup>9</sup>

It would seem that William's outing had been a long time coming however, and interestingly Mulvagh blamed Australia for his final 'undoing.'

His sexual tendencies became common knowledge when he visited in August 1930, as part of a round-the-world trip.<sup>10</sup>

Accompanying William was a servant from *Madresfield* and Robert Bernays - a young Liberal MP - who acted as his speechwriter both said to be his current favourites.

**Continued page 13**



**Bon Accord where the former NSW governor officially opened the golf links**

### **Continued from page 12**

Unfortunately, William's 'varied sex-life' was reported back to his brother-in-law, the Duke of Westminster, who then passed the news on to the King.

Mulvagh suggested however, that Beauchamp's indiscretions had not gone un-noticed even during his tenure as Governor of New South Wales.

The poet Victor J Daley once described an evening at Government House where 'the most striking feature of the vice-regal ménage' was the youthfulness of its members.<sup>11</sup>

Dutton observed that William bestowed his patronage on local artists and writers during his time as governor which accounted for his friendship with people like Daley and Henry Lawson.<sup>12</sup>

As the *Nepean Times* article suggests, Beauchamp's exile eventually returned him to Sydney in 1933, and it is a little known fact that it was he who performed the official opening of *Bon Accord Golf Links*.<sup>13</sup>

The lessee of the *Bon Accord* property at that time was the ever controversial Hugh D McIntosh who is perhaps better known as 'Huge Deal McIntosh'.<sup>14</sup>

McIntosh established a nine-hole golf course on the property, perhaps to enhance the attraction of *Bon Accord Guest House*.

Percy Dawson and his brothers were the owners of the *Bon Accord* property, located on Hawkesbury Road, Springwood which added to their other property investments which included a chain of international jewellery shops, the Strand Arcade and Ambassadors restaurant and night club.<sup>15</sup>

Frank Van Straten has written extensively about Hugh McIntosh who dabbled in boxing and bicycle race promotion, politics, theatre productions and newspapers in Australia, and a chain of milk bars in England.

In 1923, convinced he would spend the rest of his life in England, McIntosh leased *Broome Park*, the 17<sup>th</sup> century home of the late Earl

Kitchener, and extravagantly re-laid its cricket pitch with soil from Bulli in New South Wales.<sup>16</sup>

McIntosh was a remarkable man; he moved easily in political, high society and theatrical circles, and rubbed shoulders with people like HG Wells, Nellie Melba, Anna Pavlova and Oscar Ashe, and promoted artists like Roy Rene, (Mo), Ada Reeve and boxers like Jack Johnson and Tommy Burns.<sup>17</sup>

## **'...Governor's indiscretion not gone un-noticed...'**

However, the narrative of his life illustrates that McIntosh swayed constantly between bankruptcy and times of incredible wealth.

In 1927, McIntosh sought damages from *Smith's Newspapers Limited* when Robert Clyde Packer was publisher.<sup>18</sup>

McIntosh wanted compensation for a headline that appeared in the *Daily Guardian* which read 'Mr HD McIntosh and how he met the Duke'.<sup>19</sup> It was obviously defamatory.

Even though the offending article has yet to be found it may have referred to the Duke and Duchess of York who visited Australia in 1927.

The *Daily Guardian* was part of Joynton Smith's newspaper empire.

In 1931, McIntosh was awarded a farthing damages in another libel case he actioned against the *Truth* because the tome referred to him as an 'erstwhile pie man who had blossomed into a newspaper magnate and drained the lifeblood from the *Sunday Times*'.<sup>20</sup>

He was well-known in Springwood; a one-time resident even remarked that the rafters of *Bon Accord* used to 'ring' in McIntosh's time.<sup>21</sup>

It was not at all uncommon for well-known actors and actresses to attend parties held in the ballroom

of *Bon Accord* and Rose Lindsay, wife of Norman, was particularly fond of him and invited him to her soirees.<sup>22</sup>

*Brideshead Revisited* became a book and then a television drama, the still exiled William Lygon died in the Waldorf Astoria Hotel New York on November 15, 1938, and Hugh McIntosh was practically penniless again when he died at Golders Green (an area of London), in 1942.

*Bon Accord Guest House* burnt down in 1937 and *Bon Accord Golf Links* was absorbed into what presently exists in 1942 when the council purchased the property.

After his exile William Lygon spent a great deal of time in Australia. He owned an apartment at Darling Point and became the president of the Australian Sporting Club.<sup>23</sup>

It is obvious that the Blue Mountains was familiar to Lygon because Paula Byrne mentioned a trip made there by him and son Hugh.<sup>24</sup>

Hugh McIntosh (said to be a business associate of their father) was so well-known to the Lygon children that his name was used disparagingly among their inner circle of friends (like Waugh) as a private code for anything remotely 'boring'.<sup>25</sup>

The warrant for William Lygon's arrest was lifted temporarily to enable him to bury son Hugh when he died unexpectedly in 1936, and lifted permanently shortly before he died.

### **Endnotes**

<sup>1</sup> 'Bon Accord' Golf Links Opened by Earl Beauchamp, *Nepean Times*, 11.3.1933.

<sup>2</sup> Baxter was the local doctor, the Dawson family owned the *Bon Accord* property and Rogalsky was a part-time resident of Springwood.

<sup>3</sup> *Nepean Times*, 11.3.1933.

<sup>4</sup> Jane Mulvagh, 'The Scandal that shook Brideshead,' *The Telegraph*, 1.6.2008, , <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/books/3553486/The-scandal-that-shook-Brideshead>, accessed 12.7.2011.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> David Dutton, 'William Lygon, 7<sup>th</sup> Earl Beauchamp (1872-1938), Journal Of Liberal Democrat History, Issue 23, Summer 1999, pp. 18-20.

**Continued page 14**

# Keneally to speak at history forum

THOMAS KENEALLY will speak at the Blackheath History Forum on Saturday October, 22

Many will be familiar with his *Australians: Origins to Eureka*. In this lecture, he will focus on the forthcoming second volume of the series, advance copies of which should be available on the day.

Keneally will be the seventh and final speaker in this year's Forum season.

Lectures are being held at the Blackheath Primary School at 4pm every second Saturday afternoon, from July 30 to October 22.

## Former governor 'outed'

Footnotes continued from page 13

<sup>9</sup> Selina Hastings, 'Country house high jinks,' MailOnline, <http://www.dailymail.co.uk>, 4.6.2008, accessed 18.7.2011.

<sup>10</sup> Jane Mulvagh.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> David Dutton; Cameron Hazelhurst, 'Beauchamp, seventh Earl (1872-1938),' *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol. 7, Melbourne University Press, 1979, pp. 235-236.

<sup>13</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald*, 25.2.1933, p. 17.

<sup>14</sup> Frank Van Straten, *Huge Deal, The Fortunes and follies of Hugh D. McIntosh*, Thomas C. Lothian, South Melbourne, 2004.

<sup>15</sup> Pamela Smith, 'David Stewart Dawson,' *The Making Of A Mountain Community: A Biographical Dictionary of the Springwood District*, Springwood Historians, pp. 84-85.

<sup>16</sup> *The Register* (Adelaide), 3 August 1923, p. 9, Pamela Smith, 'Hugh Donald McIntosh,' *The Making Of A Mountain Community...*, p. 214.

<sup>17</sup> Frank Van Straten, foreword Keith Dunstan OAM.

<sup>18</sup> *Barrier Mine* (Broken Hill), 31 March 1927, p. 4.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> *Advertiser and Register*, (Adelaide), 12 September 1931, p. 16.

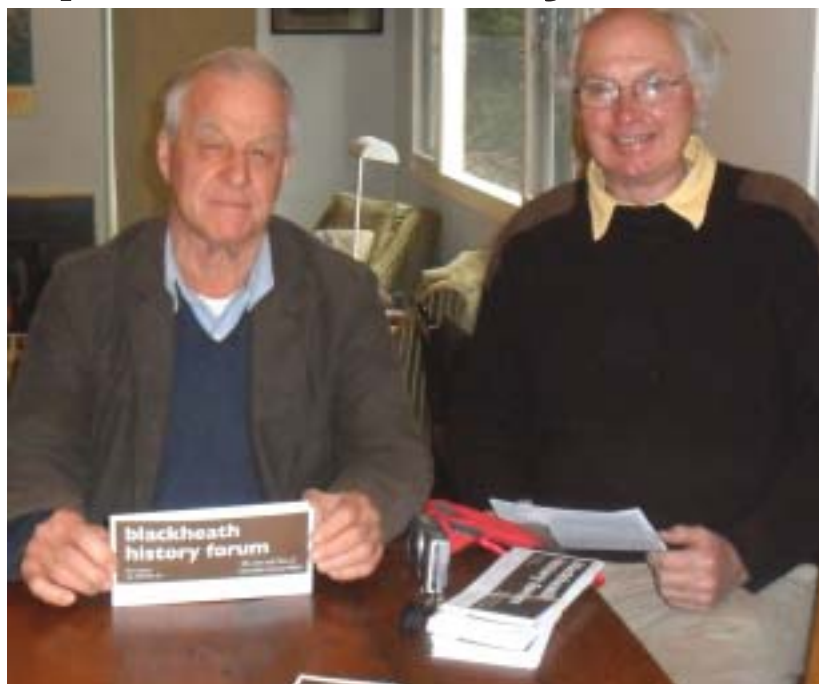
<sup>21</sup> Jean Davenport, Oral Taped Interview, BMCC Local Studies Collection.

<sup>22</sup> Mollie Fraser (nee Chapman) Oral Taped Interview, BMCC Local Studies Collection.

<sup>23</sup> Paula Byrne, *Mad World Evelyn Waugh and the Secrets of Brideshead*, Harper Press, 2010, p. 198.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid, p. 204.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid, p. 243.



**Blackheath History forum chair Neal Bluett and committee person Robert O'Neill planning the launch of this year's season**

Other speakers yet to come are Professor David Lowe (*Sir Percy Spender: foreign minister and diplomat*); Professor Penny Russell (*Savage or Civilised? Manners in colonial Australia*); and Professor Stephen Foster (*Allan Macpherson: squatter, laird and parliamentarian*).

This is the third season of the Forum, which is open to anyone interested in understanding Australian history in both its national and global contexts.

Past speakers have included former premier Bob Carr, Dr Grace Karskens, Professor Henry Reynolds and Professor Robert O'Neill.

Entry is just \$5, and refreshments are available from 3.30pm. For full details visit [http://www.blackheathhistoryforum.org.au/images/stories/forum\\_2011.pdf](http://www.blackheathhistoryforum.org.au/images/stories/forum_2011.pdf)

## Welcome to new member

DR PETER RICKWOOD, the inaugural editor of the Blue Mountains History Journal and former president of Blue Mountains Historical Society has accepted an invitation to become an individual member of BMACHO.

Peter is a visiting senior research fellow at the School of Biological, Earth & Environmental Science at the University of NSW. He has been involved with volunteers throughout the region and earlier this year assisted Mary Reynolds of Mt Wilson when she produced a history of postal and telephone communications in Mt Wilson.

A more detailed profile of Peter



**Dr Peter Rickwood**

will appear in the next edition of *HERITAGE*



# Bouquets for *HERITAGE*

FROM TIME TO TIME *HERITAGE* receives accolades in the e-mail.

Here are just a few which seems to indicate that almost 3 years of publishing the association's 17 editions of newsletter has been positively received.

From **Angela le Sueur editor, NSW National Trust magazine** *Thank you so much for your latest issue of HERITAGE newsletter – and congratulations on achieving, yet again, such an informative, insightful and inspiring mix of articles.*

From **Ken Goodlet, historian/author - Hazelbrook:** *Congratulations on a truly enlightening edition. I have written a history of Blue Mountains Grammar and of Hazelbrook and Woodford, of course, but there was information here I had not known. Thank you.*

From **John Low, local historian:** *Enjoyed the last issue you sent. Packed full of interesting material.*

From **Bill Evans, local historian and Cox's Road enthusiast:** *Congratulations John....you have "raised the bar" once again.*

From **Paul Cardow, Beyond Photographics, Wallerawang:** *Great newsletter. Keep up the good work. I just wanted to compliment the efforts of your team to put a newsletter together on a continuing basis. I also like the fact that a group of people are dedicated in linking the cultural heritage groups together.*

*I was alerted to your existence by the Discovery Team at National Parks (DECC), and that connection was from my interest at the time of some history of the Newnes railway. Yes I would like to be on the mailing list and I'll keep in touch.*

From **Lynn Collins, Museums Advisor to Blue Mountains City Council and Lithgow City Council:** *From my observations, BMACHO successfully reaches people through the mountains and by listing the current state of thinking and actual planning of commemorative activities in the electronic periodical, it may succeed in fostering a rich, varied and coordinated event all along the track through to Bathurst in 2015 utilizing the enthusiasm and resources of numerous agencies making contact up and down the road.*

From **Pru Acton curator, Hawkesbury Regional Museum:** *Thanks very much, John and Nanette – very interesting and informative, as usual. I was particularly interested in your piece on George Evans, and thought you might be interested in the attached image, which is attributed to Evans and one we use a lot because it is a very early depiction of Windsor (1809). Hawkesbury Regional Museum is located (roughly) in the centre of the picture.*



From **Valerie and Frank Holland, Kurrajong-Comelroy Historical Society Inc.:** *Just a short note to thank you for your newsletter. I have just sent it out to all our members with e-mail.*

From **Jan Koperberg, president Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc.:** *I love your stories in the current HERITAGE newsletter about the "Katoomba Waltz", George William Evans and Rex Turner, BMGS pupil. Loved Peter Stanbury's article too - what a mystery!*

## Naomi Parry has left Lithgow

NAOMI PARRY has left her position as Lithgow City Council's cultural development officer and manager of Eskbank House, to return to academia.

Naomi will be working for the Australian Catholic University as the NSW historical researcher on an innovative national project called, *Find and Connect*.

This is a federally funded project which aims to help former child migrants and people who grew up in out of home care (the Forgotten Australians) find information about their families.

Naomi says, "the decision to leave Lithgow City Council and Eskbank House was very difficult, but *Find and Connect* will make a real difference to the lives of people who grew up in child welfare systems in the 20th century.

"This is work I started with my PhD, *Such a Longing: Black and white children in welfare in NSW and Tasmania, 1880-1940*, which I completed at UNSW in 2007."



Naomi will continue to live in the Blue Mountains, and intends to take an active part in the heritage and history community.

Naomi has contributed several articles to *HERITAGE* and all in the heritage sector wish her well

Her position as cultural development officer was advertised in August 2011 and is expected to be filled shortly.

**An invitation is still open** to hear, Philip Hammon, from Scenic World Katoomba speak on

**"Coal, Oil Shale, Engineers and Entrepreneurs"**

Woodford Academy, Great Western Highway, Woodford

**on Friday 2 September 2011 at 10.00 am**

## Woodford Academy book sale bonanza

GRAB some great novels or non fiction books - cheap prices at the Woodford Academy book sale bonanza to be held on Saturday and Sunday, September 17 and 18.

Also inspect the oldest set of buildings in the Blue Mountains, and enjoy a delicious Devonshire tea on the balcony. Saturday open 10am - 4pm and Sunday 12noon - 4pm.

Cost: \$6 adult, \$4 concession, \$3 children. Contact: (02) 4758 7809.



## Lacemaking demonstration

OPEN DAY AT WOODFORD Academy on Saturday, October 15 will feature a delightful display of hand made lace, with the lacemakers present who will demonstrate the craft.

There will also be a display of popular crazy tea cosies.

The lace display will finish at 2pm, but the house will stay open till 4pm. A delicious morning or afternoon tea may be enjoyed on the Balcony Tea Rooms.

Cost: \$6 adults, \$4 concession, Booking: (02) 4758 7809

### Ted Mullet back on his feet

**DEDICATED and long- serving chairman of Valley Heights Locomotive Depot and Museum, Ted Mullett is now back home recuperating after his second knee replacement.**

**His many friends will wish him a speedy recovery.**

## The silhouettes man

BACK IN FEBRUARY 2010, Joan Francis a member of the Blue Mountains Family History Society recalled in that organisation's newsletter *The Explorer's Tree*, her recollection as a teenager of a man who during Christmas school holidays had a booth at Echo Point, Katoomba cutting paper silhouette portraits.

'The portraits for clients mainly teenage girls (I was one of them) – who thought it was the 'in thing' to do.

'He could quickly cut out very life-like and reasonably priced silhouettes - two copies – one facing right one facing left. His work was very popular, but after a few years he just disappeared.

'Imagine my surprise when I saw him at the Royal Easter Show – not looking a day older and still cutting out silhouettes just as quickly and accurately as he did all those years ago!!!', Joan wrote

Thanks to the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW, *HERITAGE* is able to publish this image of Sebastian John Ross (April 24, 1919 - August 24, 2008)

Ross, was an American-born Australian artist and showman, famous for his miniature silhouette portraits cut in black card.

In 1948, Ross began to tour the circuit of agricultural shows as a silhouette artist, encouraged by the travelling showman and boxing entrepreneur, Jimmy Sharman.

He was to continue working at shows for the next 60 years, travelling as far as the Proserpine Show in Queensland.

From the 1950s until its closure in 1979, Ross also worked at Luna Park, Sydney, unless he was touring shows.

John Ross became a well-known identity on the show circuit, with



generations of families taking their children to have their portraits cut out by him. In 2006 he was named an "Ekka Legend" at the Brisbane Exhibition and in 2007 was named a "Show Legend" at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

He worked until the age of 89, and in that time created thousands of portraits, including those of many celebrities. He was sometimes referred to as "Scissors John".

Inspired by an artist he saw at Michigan State Fair, he trained with the silhouette artist Budd-Jack.

During World War 2, Ross served in the Philippines. He then came to Australia and served at Base Section 7 in Sydney, and as a staff sergeant managed the US driving pool, driving entertainment celebrities such as Bob Hope and Jack Benny.

In his search for good drivers, he employed a number of Australian women in the WAAAF, thus meeting Florence Phyllis Counsell (known as Phyllis). They married in February 1945.

They lived at Falcon Avenue, Hazelbrook, in the Blue Mountains, New South Wales. Ross and Phyllis had two sons, John Leyton Ross and Philip Ross.

# Leading historian as keynote speaker for 2012 conference

DR SHIRLEY FITZGERALD former historian for City of Sydney Council, university lecturer, author and leading light in numerous heritage and history ventures has agreed to be the keynote speaker at the 2012 Blue Mountains history conference.

The conference being planned by the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations Inc. will be conducted in the heritage Carrington Hotel, Katoomba on Saturday, October 20, 2012.

Shirley writes about Sydney in a variety of formats, gives public lectures and regular historical chats on Sydney radio. She has taught in NSW schools, lectured at the University of New England and established the inaugural Master of Letters degree in Public History at the University of Sydney.

Until 2009 she was the city historian for the City of Sydney, delivering a program contributing to community understanding and involvement in it's history as well as undertaking historical research involving a wide range of products from pamphlets to film to research papers and published books.

Publications include *Rising Damp, Sydney 1870-1890*, Oxford University Press, 1987; *Sydney 1842-1992*, Hale & Iremonger, 1992, *Red Tape Gold Scissors: The Story of Sydney's Chinese*, State Library of NSW Press, 1997. (Chinese translation, 1998) and a series of histories of Sydney precincts - Chippendale, Surry Hills, Pyrmont, Millers Point - either as author or supervisor of the work.

The book *Rising Damp* establishes a detailed reconstruction of the urban environment, the state of public health, conditions of work and the chances of occupational mobility in late nineteenth century Sydney.

The conclusions arrived at were at odds with much of the perceived wisdom about colonial conditions.



**Shirley Fitzgerald, BA Hons, PhD, Dip T.**

This book is frequently cited in literature as having a significant impact on Australian historiography and on the development of Australian urban history.

She was instrumental in establishing the Dictionary of Sydney Project, a metropolitan wide, community based project which represents Sydney's history in electronic formats. She was the founding chair of it's Board of Trustees, 2006-9.

She has held a number of positions on history-related organisations, including president of the History Council of NSW, 1996-99 and trustee of the Historic Houses Trust of NSW 1996 -1998.

She received the Centenary of Federation Medal in 2003 for 'services to heritage', was made a life member of the History Council in 2004.

She is an honorary fellow of the Royal Australian Historical Society, has served as chairperson of the Board of State Records and is currently adjunct professor in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Technology, Sydney.

She is a graduate of the University of Adelaide and Macquarie University.

## Vintage and Retro at Everglades

STEP BACK IN TIME at the Everglades Retro Fair to be held at Everglades Historic House and Gardens on November 5 and 6 .

Dance to the Sydney Youth Orchestra, sprawl on the green lawns while watching your kids play hopscotch or quoits, ladies can relish the fashions of the 30's and 40's while the men lust over polished vintage vehicles.

Play Croquet or enjoy a tour of the Art Deco home, wander through 8 acres of gardens. Find that perfect spot for a picnic.

Everyone is encouraged to dress the part - have a free retro face and hair makeover. Once you're done, you can learn to move and groove. All this and a lot more will be held at the National Trust property, Everglades.

To make a weekend of it, the Leura Golf Course will host the Woolworths Jazz on the Fairways featuring the George Washingmachine Quartet and the Blue Mountains Grammar School stage band. For more details [www.nationaltrust.com.au](http://www.nationaltrust.com.au) or (02) 4784 1938.



# Everglades open for Leura garden festival

UP TO 12 GARDENS will open to the public including the large private estate of 'The Braes' and the National Trust property Everglades during the Leura garden festival

The garden festival will be open from Saturday October 1 to Sunday 9.

Apart from Everglades the gardens featured in the festival are all privately owned properties and visitors have an exclusive opportunity to not only see a wide cross section of the very best gardens the region has to offer but also to interact with some of the garden owners, many of whom are present in their gardens during the days of the festival.

Garden enthusiasts who are planning new gardens or re-modeling existing one's always find



the festival is a fund of inspiring ideas.

Entry prices will be \$20pp for a multiple entry ticket to all gardens, and \$5pp for a single garden entry ticket. (Children with parents are admitted with no charge) Visa and

MasterCard are accepted at festival HQ, Fitzroy Street Leura.

Multiple entry tickets may be used on any day or combination of days during the festival, and can be purchased at the entry to any garden. Bookings: 0431 095 279

## 1890s Tarella venue for Fuchsia Show

THE NSW FUCHSIA CLUB will be holding a wonderful show of their prize plants at historic Tarella, Blaxland Road, Wentworth Falls on Saturday, October 23 between 10am and 4pm.

There will be hundreds of young plants for sale with advice on how to get the best from growing them.

President of the Blue Mountains Historical Society, Graham Warmbath said, "Visitors should be early as the plants fly out the gate in the arms of eager buyers".

The 1890s cottage Tarella is open and there will be a display of historic photographs with the society's research officer being on hand to answer questions on people, places and events in the Blue Mountains.

This cottage was built by John McLaughlin, Sydney solicitor and Member of the Legislative Assembly, in 1890 as a holiday cottage for his family of four children to escape the heat of Sydney summers.

His daughter Beryl McLaughlin was the benefactor of the Blue Mountains Historical Society, leaving Tarella and the land to the Blue Mountains Historical Society on her death in 1988 just two months short of her 100th birthday.

The cottage contains an eclectic collection of memorabilia of the late 19th and early 20th centuries

Home-made refreshments will be available all day or picnic in the grounds.

Admission for adults is \$5 and for children entry to the grounds is free with an 'I spy' competition to keep them amused with a small prize.

Meantime, The Open Garden Scheme has selected the grounds of Tarella as one of their gardens this year and it will be open for visits the weekend of October 29 and 30.

Home-made refreshments available all day or picnic in the grounds.

Admission is \$6.



*The 1890s cottage Tarella will be open on October 23, 29 and 30.*

# Methodist preachers also led Lithgow miners' union

By Ray Christison

IN RESEARCHING HISTORY of the development of the Western District Coal-Miners' Mutual Protective Association I quickly realised the very close connection between the Methodist churches and the union's leaders.

Many of those who led the development of the union were active in Lithgow's churches and a number were preachers or church leaders.

Methodists and Primitive Methodists held key leadership positions during the first two decades of the union.

The New South Wales Western Coalfield is bounded on the east by the Nepean River and extends northwest to well beyond Mudgee and Gulgong.

The western extremity of the field is located around Wellington and Dubbo.

During the 19<sup>th</sup> century and much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century coalmining activity was centred around the Lithgow Valley and the spine of the Great Dividing Range leading towards Rylstone.

Large-scale extraction of coal commenced after the construction of the Great Western Railway to Bowenfels in the late 1860s.

As the mines of the Western Coalfield developed men were drawn to the employment offered by the new collieries and shale mines.

Many came from the coalmining regions of Scotland, Northern England and Wales.



**District and lodge officials taken with their banner before the 1900 Eight Hour Day procession. Photograph courtesy City of Greater Lithgow Mining Museum**

Others came from Cornwall. As the gold mines of the Turon began to decline in the late 1870s, Cornish families were also drawn from these areas. Many of these migrants shared an adherence to the principles of Methodism.

Methodism developed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century as part of the evangelical revival movement encouraged by the preaching of John Wesley.

The evangelical doctrines of the movement, its reliance on the preaching of the word of God and its missionary zeal appealed to the workers struggling in the new industries fostered by the Industrial Revolution.

Primitive Methodism emerged from the Methodist movement from about 1810. The Primitive Methodists, or "ranter", became associated with many of the 19<sup>th</sup> century radical movements in Britain.

Methodism became quite popular among the coal and tin miners of

England with numerous adherents in Cornwall, Wales and the North of England. Both sects placed a strong emphasis on preaching of the Bible and encouraged their members to take to the pulpit.

Like many 19<sup>th</sup> century evangelical sects they also organised Sabbath or Sunday Schools.

During the late 19<sup>th</sup> century Methodists and Primitive Methodists based in Lithgow played a pivotal role in the establishment and development of a mining union in the Western Coalfield.

The first union lodge was formed at the Vale of Clwydd Colliery in August 1878.

Thomas Druery, the first elected lodge president, was a member of a devout Methodist family from the River Tyne.

His father Robert, one of the heroes of the 1886 Lithgow Valley Colliery fire, was an active Methodist who worked in Lithgow's coalmines until he was well into his seventies.

He was remembered as one who "had taken a prominent part in the work of God in this place for many years" and "had worked faithfully for the cause of the kingdom of God".

*Continued page 20*

## **"A Light in the Vale. Development of the Lithgow District Miners' Mutual Protective Association 1875-1900"**

Available from independent book retailers throughout Lithgow and the Blue Mountains. Also available at <http://www.higround.com.au/higypress.htm> RRP \$30.00



# Miners' union leader and devout Methodist went on to be prime minister of Australia

Robert's other son Robert Ross was instrumental in the establishment of a union lodge at the Ironworks Tunnel Colliery in 1883.

Thomas and Robert Ross Druery were prime motivators for the establishment of a district union in February 1886. Robert Ross was elected the first president of the newly-formed Hartley District Miners' Mutual Protective Association.

In the following ten years the union was led by a succession of Methodists and Primitive Methodists.

Robert Ross Druery's successors Samuel Penna, William Teague and William Rickard were members of these churches.

William Rickard had commenced preaching in the Methodist church when he was 16 years old.

Joseph Cook, union general secretary between 1889 and 1891, was a devoted Primitive Methodist who gained popularity as a circuit preacher in the towns and villages around Lithgow.

Cook's popularity provided the foundation for his election as Labor MLA for the seat of Hartley in 1891.

During the Labor Loyalty Pledge disputes of 1893 and 1894 Cook retained the unswerving loyalty of his mining colleagues who continued to support his candidature in the face of pressure from the Central Labor Electoral League.

Cook was one of the preachers who railed against the manager of the Zig Zag Colliery who virtually forced miners to work on a Sunday in 1895. He used his oratory skills to highlight the desperation of the miners at a time of high unemployment.

The skills Cook acquired at the pulpit stood him in good stead as he fought political battles in the New South Wales Parliament in the 1890s. Cook went on to become prime minister of Australia in 1913.

The role of these men and their compatriots in the development of trade unionism in the Western Coalfield during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century is explored further in my book

*A Light in the Vale. The development of the Lithgow District Miners' Mutual Protective Association 1875-1900.*

## Waradah Goomeda exhibition at Mount Tomah

AN EXHIBITION titled Waradah Goomeda (Darug for Waratah Spirit) will be displayed at the Blue Mountains Botanical Garden, Mount Tomah between September 24 and October 9.

In partnership with Red Cockatoo Australia, this exhibition brings together Aboriginal artists including Chris Tobin, Leanne Tobin, Karen Maber, Dianne Ussher and Elly Chatfield from the Blue Mountains World Heritage region.

Image -  
Waratah  
by  
Chris  
Tobin



Waratah is a local Aboriginal word from the Darug language sometimes translated as "Beauty from afar". In this exhibition, individual artists share their Waratah stories creatively in painting and mixed media.

The dramatic Waratah is seen with different indigenous perspectives portrayed in brilliant colours.

Red Cockatoo Australia in partnership with the Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mount Tomah showcase their environmentally friendly range of Waratah gift cards, stories and Eco Waratah notepads by featured artists Chris Tobin, Karen Maber and Leanne Tobin.

Entry to the exhibition in the visitor's centre at the garden is free of charge 9.00am\* to 5.00pm (\*9.30am weekends)

To celebrate the state's floral emblem and inspire a love of waratahs in the wild, this year's program includes the state-wide waratah bloom competition, displays, growing advice, National Parks and Wildlife guided walk, waratah farm open day, information panels, school art competition and plant sales.

Enquiries: Phone 4567 3000 or visit [www.mounttomahbotanicgarden.com.au/](http://www.mounttomahbotanicgarden.com.au/)

Refreshments: Restaurant Tomah opens every day. Bookings recommended on 4567 2060

Blue Mountains Botanical Garden acknowledges the traditional custodians of this Blue Mountains region the Darug and Gundungurra people and their ancestors.



**Waratahs in the wild. Photograph by John Leary, OAM**



# Defence sites heritage listed

THE SURVIVAL OF LITHGOW and the Blue Mountain's wartime history has been given priority with the highest level of State heritage protection.

A former railway tunnel and mustard gas storage facility in Glenbrook, the site of two former heavy anti-aircraft gun stations at South Bowenfels and Scenic Hill and a dummy gun station at Lithgow have all been added to the State Heritage Register.

Minister for Heritage, Robyn Parker, said the sites were part of a strategy to defend Australia in the event of an attack on home soil.

"By early 1942 the Japanese campaign was moving south and there was fear that Australia could be invaded.

One of the concerns was that the enemy could use chemical weapons as part of the attack.

Australia had seen the terrible injuries that soldiers had suffered when chemical weapons were first used in World War 1.

The military wanted to be able to protect Australia if chemical weapons were used against it during World War 2.

"The 1925 Geneva Protocol banned the use of chemical warfare for offensive purposes but it did give nations the ability to use chemical weapons to defend themselves if attacked," Ms Parker said.

A former railway tunnel in Glenbrook, constructed between 1891 and 1892 to bypass the Lapstone Zig Zag was chosen to



**Glenbrook tunnel. Image courtesy Blue Mountains City Library - Local Studies Collection**



**Glenbrook tunnel construction 1910-1913. Image courtesy Blue Mountains City Library - Local Studies Collection**

store mustard gas, 3 other tunnels close to Sydney were also used for this purpose.

The first delivery of mustard gas to Glenbrook took place in August 1942; in 1946 the gas was removed from Glenbrook.

It is only in the last few years that the men who served there have been allowed to speak publicly about their experiences.

Two former heavy anti-aircraft gun stations and dummy gun station at South Bowenfels, Scenic Hill and Lithgow are the only known inland heavy anti-aircraft gun stations of their type in NSW.

"The gun stations were constructed to protect Lithgow's important mining, manufacturing and transport industries and the Lithgow small arms factory.

"Prior to December 1941 defence facilities were focused on the coast, however, the Military Command in NSW became concerned that enemy planes could reach some inland areas.

"Work on the gun stations, which included four gun emplacements and a command post, began in late 1941 and were completed in January 1942.

"From the air the dummy station looked like a real gun station and was aimed at confusing the enemy into bombing the wrong places.

The fake emplacements were constructed of materials such as piping and concrete.

"By January 1944 the threat of war on Australian soil had decreased, and the gun stations were abandoned soon after.

"Fortunately the defences at Lithgow and Glenbrook were not required.

"They are now part of Australia's wartime heritage and will be protected for future generations," Ms Parker said.

## TOURISM AWARDS TO MEMBERS' STAFF

In the Blue Mountains, Lithgow and Oberon Tourism Awards of Excellence 2011, two BMACHO members' staff were recognised.

Lilianfels apprentice chef in the Darley Restaraunt, Tara Hellyer was chef apprentice of the year, while at Scenic World , Eric Jenkins was awarded employee of the year.

\*Lilianfels and Scenic World are inaugural members of BMACHO

# Western crossing commemoration 2013-15

great ideas - thoughts - just being talked about or its really going to happen

THE recently appointed museums adviser to Lithgow and Blue Mountains City Councils, Lynn Collins (pictured) has picked up on



uncertainty about planning for the Western Crossings commemorations and writes: 'At the excellent forum Naomi Parry arranged at Lithgow in May this year, there was a good buzz as people were clearly stimulated by the range of speakers and ideas. I was impressed.

'Yet on my travels subsequently, as I touch base with various mountains cultural agencies, I have been asked tentatively about exhibition development grants, how small artefact collections might be utilised and what resources are available for participation in whatever is going to transpire along the road during the two years of festivities.

'No-one quite knows. People are talking about doing something, soon, maybe, depends...Time is slipping by.

'Commemoration plans were first discussed 6 or 7 years ago, but with just roughly 20 months to go, what's the itinerary of the mooted exhibition of key artifacts coming out of Sydney? Folks are asking; what are the councils doing; what plaques are being refurbished; which schools are having pageants of 19th century pioneers, what seminars are being held; is the new highway to be launched as a key event within the commemorations and what lasting things will come out of this occasion.

'I raised the issue with the editor of *HERITAGE* and proposed a small corner for a "running-sheet" of what folk from say, Penrith or Parramatta to Bathurst are thinking of doing, a very simple, organic, non-binding listing, cobbled together from community contributions sharing their aspirations, plans-to-date, modest or expansive.

'If folks through the mountains knew the Hartley people were arranging a walk program on The Road on such-and-such-a-day/s, they might consider tacking something appealing onto that, to capitalise on the promotional opportunities, the tourists, and the buzz.

'Or deferring their own conflicting activity, or actually attending the walk (if there was room), or offering to assist the Hartley initiative in some way....From my observation, no joint activities seem evident, following the positive atmosphere at Lithgow, 3 months ago, but here is the start of some exchanges, perhaps, wrote Lynn.'

*HERITAGE* editor, John Leary has said, the idea seems good so those organisations that have plans no matter how tentative are invited to e-mail them to [johnanette@optusnet.com.au](mailto:johnanette@optusnet.com.au) for publication on this page in subsequent editions.

Several years ago, BMACHO's management committee considered that it did not have the capacity or mandate to take on a co-ordinating role for events that were being considered as part of the commemoration.

At about this time the RAHS undertook to take a major co-ordinating role for the Western Crossing 1813-15

commemorations and Professor David Carment AM, (pictured above) then the senior vice president of the RAHS and now its president, accepted the role of co-ordinator.

The RAHS subsequently agreed to endorse the Western Crossing Committee as a sub committee of the RAHS providing it with a legal entity in which to work.

There have been a number of very well attended meetings of this committee throughout the region at

which a wide range of interested bodies including historical societies and local government from Penrith, Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury, Lithgow, Oberon and Bathurst have been represented by mayors and councillors.

David Carment reported to the last meeting of the committee that NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell had been made aware of the committee's work and the possibility of funding may be addressed.

In the meantime, Joan Kent from the Hartley Valley 1813 Crossings Committee writes: 'Events and activities which will highlight the development of Hartley Valley community are being planned by a sub committee of Hartley District Progress Association.

The centre point is the planned opening of a number of private properties to enable the original routes across the Valley to be explored (under supervision) during May 2013 from the tracks down the Mt York escarpment to the vicinity of Mt Blaxland.

Other events being pursued include sculpture and art exhibitions, a thematic presentation of images of Hartley Valley by maps, sketches, paintings and photographs to be exhibited at the Old Hartley School and adjacent buildings, the 'signing' of historic structures along the present Great Western Highway, a bush picnic at Glenroy, road and mountain bike rides, a woolshed dance at Liddleton Station and musical and theatrical presentations in Hartley Vale.

These activities are only in early planning stages at present but offer a range of events from which to select.'

One of the more unusual but innovative ideas comes from local businessman, Tom Colless who recently reported he was trying to secure agreement for the minting of a holey dollar and dump to be issued to schoolchildren.



# Naval wrecks now on heritage lists

NEARLY 70 YEARS after the entire crew of 644 died when the HMAS *Sydney* sank off the coast of Western Australia, the wreck has been added to the Commonwealth and National Heritage lists.

The HMAS *Sydney* engaged in a vicious battle with the German Raider HSK *Kormoran* 207 kilometres off the coast of Western Australia on November 19, 1941.

The *Kormoran* wreck, which lies to the north-west of the *Sydney*, will also be listed.

The announcement by the Heritage Minister, Tony Burke, marks the last stage in a long journey to find the wrecks and will bring to an end the rumour-mongering that flourished in the wake of the deadly naval battle.

The *Sydney's* Captain Joseph Burnett was apparently fooled by

the *Kormoran's* disguise as a merchant ship and gave the order to approach.

By the time he realised his mistake, the German ship an auxiliary cruiser under the Fregattenkapitan (Commander) Theodor Detmers had trained its gun on the *Sydney*.

The half-hour long engagement resulted in the ships' mutual destruction.

When *Sydney* failed to return to port, air and sea searches for the cruiser were conducted between November 24 and November 29.

Three boats and two rafts carrying German survivors were recovered by merchant ships, while another two German boats made landfall --- 318 of the 399 personnel from *Kormoran* survived.

The exact location of the two wrecks was unknown until March 2008.



HMAS *Sydney* image courtesy Australian War Memorial

## BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

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Website: www.bluemountains.heritage.com  
ABN 53 994 839 952

**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** BMACHO's official newsletter is edited by John Leary, OAM.

**Blue Mountains History Journal** is edited by Dr Peter Rickwood.

**MEMBERSHIP** The following organisations are members of BMACHO: Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mount Tomah, 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., Lillianfels Blue Mountains Resort, Lithgow and District Family History Society Inc., 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 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, Dr Peter Rickwood and Dr Peter Stanbury OAM.

**COMMITTEE** The committee for 2011-12 is: Pamela Smith (president), Ian Jack (vice president), Jan Koperberg (secretary), Joan Kent (treasurer), Jean Arthur, Doug Knowles, John Leary, Dick Morony (public officer), Kathie McMahon-Nolf, Barrie Reynolds and Peter Stanbury.

**HONORARY AUDITOR:** Sue McMahon, B Comm CPA.

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