

HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

**of the
Blue Mountains Association
of Cultural Heritage Organisations Inc.**

July-August 2014

Issue No. 33

ISSN 2203-4366



Ali Khan the trader...and Indian Hawker

Ali Khan the trader pictured in the driving seat of his cart, was one of many to travel around the Hawkesbury and other regions of Australia selling his wares.

This photograph courtesy of Kathie McMahon was taken from the McMahon's guest house in 1905 on the Bells Line of Roads, Kurrajong North.

The Indian community has a long and rich history in Australia, with immigration beginning quite early in Australia's colonial history.

The earliest Indians came as convicts or as servants of British subjects who had been living in India. Many Indian immigrants to Australia in the late 19th to early 20th centuries sought employment in rural areas as labourers or itinerant hawkers.

These hawkers traversed rural parts of Australia, moving from town to town in their covered wagons. The hawkers sold a diverse range of products, including food, books, pots and pans and jewellery, as well as products from India, such as silks and spices.

Many sources indicate that these hawkers provided a lifeline to the rural towns and more isolated farms by providing a large range of products, as well as a diversion from the everyday¹.

There is enough anecdotal evidence from local Australians that the Sikh hawkers were much loved members of the community.

The womenfolk loved them because they provided a welcome break from their mundane existence - the hawkers brought beautiful clothes, goods, all things exotic, and a fleeting glimpse of the big wide world beyond their farmlands.

The Australian men liked the hawkers because they were tough - they knew how to survive in difficult bush land and, more importantly, they played cricket!

The Aussie kids adored the hawkers because of the stories they told of another world, because of their playful spirit and their wonderfully aromatic curries.

There must have been a great sense of excitement when the hawker came to town bearing new merchandise, both every day and exotic, which might otherwise not be seen outside the big cities.

The National Library of Australia holds images of Indian hawkers and have done research into the lives of specific individuals¹.

There were concerted attempts in the early 1900s to establish a discourse about Indian Hawkers that conformed to the framework of the White Australia Policy.

Numerable editorials and feature articles complained of the Indian hawker in the Australian landscape as a redundant nuisance pushing shoddy goods, or as a pernicious threat to the fabric of rural society, harassing Australian women in their homes.

It is surprising, therefore, that hawkers feature in so many photographs of the period, and yet they do. Many images of the hawker signal his difference, as a lone and somewhat alienated figure in the Australian landscape, often mis-captioned, stereotyped and misunderstood.²

End notes

¹museumvictoria.com.au/immigrationmuseum/.../your.../indian-hawkers/ Accessed May 18, 2014.

² Maclean, Morven. Associate Professor UNSW. *What the Camera Tells: Indian Hawkers and White Australians in the early 20th Century*, Abstract History Seminar Series March 2014.
Compiled by John Leary, OAM.

EDITORIAL NOTE: As many of you will be aware, the passing of BMACHO President John Leary, OAM, on 10 July 2014, has left a void in the heritage community, as well as being a tragic loss to all his family and friends.

John was the Editor of this Newsletter from its inception in 2006. The Committee intend to maintain his good work and will ensure that the Newsletter is able to continue to reach the high expectations that he had in getting spreading the heritage word.

John was midway through creating the May-June Newsletter when he fell ill. Due to the passing of time, the Committee have moved the May-June Newsletter over to July-August 2014, thus there will be no May-June Newsletter this year.

John's Editorial has been retained in his memory as follows, as his parting thoughts to you.

Patsy Moppett – BMACHO Committee member and Acting Newsletter Editor.



An opinion from the editor...

Western crossing has combined commemoration and celebration

In an address I gave at the recent annual general meeting of BMACHO and circulated to members, I may have given the impression that the activities so far in the Western Crossings 2013-15 program were more celebration and little commemoration.

On reflection it is probably fair to state that In fact there was considerable commemoration as well as celebration.

Although individuals and bodies such as National Trust and the RAHS had been floating ideas for the bicentenary celebrations, the Western Crossings commemoration had its genesis with BMACHO.

However, it was quickly and correctly recognised that this organisation did not have the resources to manage such a venture. BMACHO's committee asked the then long serving president of the Royal Australian Historical Society Associate Professor Ian Jack to explore with the RAHS Council, the idea of co-ordinating the project.

It was pleasing when the RAHS quickly took up the challenge and Professor David Carment, AM very ably took on the role of the first Western Crossings Committee chairman which he continued to do when he became the president of the RAHS.

I recall soon after David took on the task of chairman he, Ian Jack (then the president of the RAHS) and I (then president of BMACHO) met one Sunday afternoon in my home to look at objectives and parameters for the Western Crossings Committee as it was to become known.

From that informal meeting there came a strong recommendation that the commemoration of the bicentenary should be from the period 2013 – 2015 embracing the anniversary of a series of inter – related events after the 1813 exploration by Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson. George William Evans began his survey for a roadway across the Blue Mountains in November 1813 and went as far as the future Bathurst; William Cox then supervised the construction of the road from July 1814 to January 1815 and then Governor Lachlan Macquarie accompanied by Mrs Elizabeth Macquarie travelled along the new road in April and May 1815 and selected the site of Bathurst.

There is no doubt all those who attended the Western Crossings Committee meetings from the very earliest meeting, were in agreement, time and time again, that the Crossings was a commemoration of all who had crossed, from the very earliest Aboriginal crossings to the crossing by Governor Lachlan Macquarie and Mrs Elizabeth Macquarie and party in 1815.

The European crossings from 1813 are not a celebration for the Aboriginal people and there were many commemorations of Indigenous crossings held during 2014, like the Ancestral Pathways walks organised by Auntie Sharyn Halls, the official opening of The Gully at Katoomba with interpretive signage, the commemoration walk 'Jummangunda Ngunninga' walk from Bardens Lookout to Mt York.

The excellent exhibition in Hartley *A Moment in Time* curated by Joan Kent starting with a very comprehensive history of the Wiradjuri people, through to Governor Lachlan Macquarie is one of the lasting commemorations as is the Western Crossing room at the Mt Victoria Museum and there are others.

As I stated in my annual report,... 'Credit must go to the Royal Australian Historical Society for its role in overseeing through the Western Crossings Committee the co-ordination of the celebration. This committee

brought together organisations from Blacktown to Bathurst; descendants of those involved with what has been described as the first crossing of the Blue Mountains by Europeans; local Indigenous groups; as well as others to promote and co-ordinate this part of the celebration and will continue to do so until 2015.

'Unfortunately, the celebration has not yet attracted major financial support from government with most of the events being funded by local organisations and sponsorship from local business and individuals.

'The State government did provide a grant of \$80,000 to the Royal Australian Historical Society and this was distributed to various groups and activities involved in the centenary. This grant was negotiated between Professor David Carment and the then Premier of NSW Barry O'Farrell.'

John Leary, OAM – president, Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations Inc and editor of *HERITAGE*.

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The Heritage of Education in the Blue Mountain

By Ian Jack

At the Blue Mountains History Conference 2014, held at the Carrington Hotel, Katoomba Associate Professor Ian Jack delivered a most interesting address titled: *The heritage of education in the Blue Mountains*. Space in this edition of *HERITAGE* will not allow for the full text to be published and at the editor's request, Ian has produced an abridged version which appears on this and following pages. A biography of the author appears at the end of this article.

In my conference paper I explored the surviving tangible heritage related to education in the Blue Mountains and the Hartley/Bowenfels area over the past 160 years.

Many of the establishments were private schools. Most of these adapted pre-existing buildings, which in turn later reverted to other uses and are not readily identifiable as schools today.

State schools, on the other hand, almost always had custom-made buildings, but the earliest schoolhouses have often been demolished or moved elsewhere and what we see today in the public schools in every village along the Great Western Highway is a long but incomplete sequence of attempts to provide for an expanding population of children in the 20th century.



National School at Bowenfels



Public education began exceptionally early, with the National School at Bowenfels, erected in 1851. It was built by local people to a local design.

It contained three rooms originally, one the schoolroom, the other two the living space for the schoolteacher, John Edhouse.

The schoolhouse opened without furniture, water supply or toilet but the local 'patrons', mainly Scottish farmers, paid for improvements in 1852 and 1853.

In 1866 a new separate schoolroom was constructed and all three rooms of the 1851 building became the schoolmaster's residence.

The stonemason was James Connor, an innkeeper who lived nearby in Umera, itself later a private school. Connor was a gifted craftsman and was responsible for some of the finest grave markers in the local cemeteries. The 1866 building remained in use as a primary school for an extraordinarily long time, over a century, until the end of 1969.

Since then the Bowenfels complex has been privately owned. For a time the 1866 school was used as an artist's studio, while the artist lived in the 1855 building.

Once the railway came over the mountains in the later 1860s, there was, of course, a new need for schools. The first public school was in Mount Victoria, opened in 1868, not for local residents, who were still few, but for the education of the children of workmen engaged on the construction of the railway and the Zig Zag. That 1868 building was, however, replaced in 1877.

The education of railway children also prompted the building of the first private school. Andrew Brown, a wealthy Scots Presbyterian grazier at Coerwull in Bowenfels, had bitterly opposed the building of the Lithgow Zig-Zag in the 1860s, because he did not want the Bathurst railway to cut through his estates.

But once the decision was taken, he accepted the inevitable and allowed a semi-permanent camp for railway construction workers to be located on Coerwull estate, near the present Bowenfels railway station.



Coerwull stone school - a painting by John Sands & Co.



The workers were accompanied by their womenfolk and children, as they had been at Mount Victoria in 1868. Genuinely distressed at the plight of the children, Andrew Brown made land available to them and built a slab building, roofed with bark.

Then in 1873-1874 he built a sandstone school for the railway children and other local children, with a stone residence for a schoolteacher. All the stone came from a quarry on the estate. The schoolhouse was also used on Sundays for services, both Presbyterian and Anglican.

When the present Coerwull Public School was built by the government in 1906-1907, the building became solely a Presbyterian Church and Sunday School. Later secularised, the lovely little building is now the centre-piece of a car-yard on the highway, but it is still externally as it was in 1874.

But the connection of the Brown family with Coerwull School continued. A bell is still rung daily in the playground of the modern state school. It originally hung in the belfry of the 1848 stables at Coerwull House, where it summoned employees back at the end of the working day. It had been brought out from Scotland along with Andrew Brown's bride in 1841.

In 1930 it was given to Coerwull School by one of Andrew's heirs and it has been there ever since. You can compare it to the old bell hanging in the playground of Blackheath Public School. That has been there since 1888, but has no story attached comparable to the Coerwull bell. It is good, however, to see that it is still there

The school at Blackheath had opened in 1885, three years before the bell was installed, but the earliest surviving building was erected in 1896 right on the highway. In December 1884 the parents of Blackheath had applied to the Department of Education for the establishment of a public school in the village. The application was approved and the department's inspector and the residents decided on a two-acre site bisected by Leichhardt Street. Two acres was the standard size of a school site.

The site that was chosen was part of the eastern edge of the Blackheath Stockade, which was established in 1844 and was in operation until 1849, so the school grounds have quite a lot of archaeological potential. The history of the site explains why what was once the schoolmaster's residence is separated from the school by a busy street.

The Department of Education still owns the old residence, since local residents demonstrated loudly against its proposed demolition some years ago and it is now sensibly used as a community centre, a Cyber-Shed in front and Before and After School Care behind.

Before any custom-made school buildings were erected in any of the Mountains villages, other than Mount Victoria, Springwood and Katoomba, the same private philanthropist who had built the school for the railway children erected entirely at his own expense a major Great Public School for country boys on a different part of his estate at Bowenfels.

Andrew Brown's concern for education led him to found a boarding school, particularly, but never exclusively, for Scottish families on country properties. In 1881 he engaged George Donald, the principal Lithgow building contractor, to erect the spacious stone buildings of Coerwull Academy which still stand.

The school was intended to provide an Australian equivalent to Edinburgh Academy, where Brown's two boys had spent two years from 1858 to 1860 and for 34 years an interesting and often distinguished staff taught boys

from many of the élite grazing families and also from the professional families in country towns, including Lithgow.

The ablest boys went on, through Brown scholarships, to St Andrew's College and the University. In 1892 Brown gave the school to St Andrew's which ran it until in 1916 the school was obliged to close, when most of the staff left to serve in World War I.

By 1907 the Academy was larger than any of the colleges at the University of Sydney, with 65 rooms accommodating up to 40 boarders, set in 7 hectares of land. There was an extensive library; art was taught by Arthur and George Collingridge, science by the Antarctic explorer Borchegrevink.

The school had excellent sports fields and played not only other major schools but also the local Lithgow industrial football and cricket teams. It was both élite and inclusive.

In 1953 the De La Salle Brothers purchased the derelict property and opened a Catholic school, La Salle Academy.



La Salle Academy still flourishes as a co-educational school and has maintained the old buildings in use. But Coerwull Academy and its aspirations did not die in 1916. The rector appointed in 1903 had been a man called John McManamey. McManamey was a Scottish policeman's son from Wellington, educated at an Anglican boarding school, All Saints at Bathurst, and then at the University of Sydney where he lived in St Andrew's College. At University and College he was enabled to indulge his passions for classical literature, and extended it into English literature, while living a vigorous outdoor and sporting life.

After graduation he was the founding headmaster of Dr Aspinall's Scots College in Sydney. He left to found his own school, The Australian College, and then went off to Queensland to be senior classics master at the renowned Ipswich Grammar School.

In 1903 he returned to the Central West of NSW to be rector of Coerwull Academy, but again ventured out to create a school of his own in 1907. And this, of course, was Woodford Academy, directed, like Coerwull, towards the University entry examination and élite learning generally.

Woodford is a classic case of adapting much older buildings to school use, while supplementing the old with a custom-made wing. Built on the site of an early road gangs' encampment, Michael Pembroke's weatherboard Woodmans Inn in 1832 was developed into a stone inn, the Kings Arms, under Michael Hogan in 1842 (the present west wing).

By 1862, during William Buss's occupancy, the kitchen wings were added. From 1867 until 1897 it was a private country retreat, owned by Alfred Fairfax, and from 1897 to 1907 it was a boarding house.

Finally, from 1907 to 1934, it became a significant school, Woodford Academy, in competition and then in succession to Coerwull Academy.

After Woodford Academy closed in 1934, the McManamey family lived privately in the house until Miss Gertrude McManamey gave the property to the National Trust of Australia (NSW) in 1978.

An unfamiliar heritage aspect of Woodford Academy is the engraving of boys' names on the massive outcrop of rock just to the east of the school. There are many initials carved, such as RSBS, who was Ralph Sanders Barclay Sillar. Sillar was a student at Woodford in 1909, and after WWI, a successful lawyer, who lived on until 1970. I find this a very human part of school heritage.

I went on to discuss a dozen other schools, public and private, and noted the variety of heritage values among surviving places.

Sometimes the school as at the Victoria and Albert was only a wartime emergency. Sometimes the schools were small dame-schools which flickered for a while and went out. Sometimes they were grand custom-built schools like Cooerwull Academy or Mount St Marys. Sometimes, as with Coorah at the Blue Mountains Grammar School, a major historic homestead remains the heart of a much larger modern complex.

Education is a fundamental need and finds many expressions through the private and the public purse. The heritage of education in the Mountains area is in need of more exhaustive evaluation and conservation.

About the author ---

Associate Professor R Ian Jack

Ian Jack was born and educated in Scotland at two of its oldest schools and at a university which had just celebrated its 500th anniversary.

Like most Scots graduates, he was obliged to find suitable employment elsewhere. He came to Australia to re-establish medieval European history in the curriculum of the University of Sydney, but in the 1970s the influences of an archaeologist and the burgeoning heritage movement made him more and more involved with the development of the Australian rural scene and its physical remains.

Although he gave up a decade to serve as the Head of the Department of History and as Dean of the Faculty of Arts, he was also co-founder of the new inter-disciplinary course in Historical Archaeology and became a member of the Heritage Council.

He was also chair of its State Heritage Register Committee, its History Panel and its Religious Properties Panel.

Ian was inevitably involved in consultancy work and among his various commissions was the full revision of the Heritage Study of the Blue Mountains City Council area.

As a result, he got to know in some measure some 900 sites the length and breadth of the Mountains and has continued to write report, give lectures and publish articles on aspects of Mountains history and heritage.

Other works in the Central West, on rural, industrial educational and Scottish themes have supplied a useful context to understanding the Mountains better.

He retired from the Department of History 10 years ago, but he has kept a toe hold on the University campus as resident Senior Fellow at St Andrew's College.

While serving 8 years as the longest-serving president of the Royal Australian Historical Society, he established the Western Crossings Committee which has been so useful a coordinating body for the bicentenary commemorations in this area.

Ian supported the foundation of the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations Inc (BMACHO), has been its vice president from the outset more than 8 years ago and has been delighted to see the society blossom.



The Witche's Leap

For over a century guidebooks and commentators, occasionally pointing out that 'leap' is "an old Scottish word for waterfall"ⁱ, have generally associated the name 'Witches Leap' (sometimes spelt 'Witch's Leap') with a small waterfall that pours into a cool, forested gully bounded by cliffs on the 'Round Walk' at Katoomba Falls.ⁱⁱ In this article, however, I want to suggest that the waterfall might not, in fact, have been foremost in the minds of those who originally conferred the name.

The 'Round Walk' is alive with echoes from the earliest days of Katoomba and, when the name 'Witches Leap' was first described in a guidebook in the early 1880s, JB North's coal mine had not long begun operations and miners were already tramping to work down a steep access path which passed through here. "The Witch's (sic) Leap, wrote JEM Russell in his *Pictorial Guide to the Blue Mountains*, is easily found by the winding path which leads to the foot of the fall, with perpendicular cliffs on each side towering up to a height of 150 feet; and here will be seen one of the prettiest dells or gullies of the mountains."

The special significance given to the "perpendicular cliffs" is noteworthy and can similarly be seen in *A Tourist Guide to the Blue Mountains*, published in 1887 by the Penrith printer Alfred Colless. Under the heading "The Witches Leap", while describing the "spray of water [falling] into the charming Fern Gully", the striking image again is of finding "yourself hemmed in on two sides by gigantic walls of rock ..."ⁱⁱⁱ While the name had shifted focus to the falls by the end of the nineteenth century, the sense in both these early descriptions is of it being used more to identify a *place* encompassing a number of natural features but dominated by those enormous rock walls.

Australian topography is littered with names derived from the folklore of fairies, witches etc. though generally these are merely descriptive or, at most, expressions of cultural memory and are not deeply rooted in the long traditions of place that exist in countries like Great Britain. Nevertheless, cultural associations can genuinely enhance a relationship with a new place and this, I think, is what might have occurred in the naming of Katoomba's 'Witches Leap'.

In Scotland's North Esk River Valley, south-west of Edinburgh and east of the Pentland Hills, is the small village of Carlops which came into being in the late 18th century as a cotton weaving centre also possessing resources of coal and limestone. Its name derived from an old folk tradition known as the 'Carline's Loup' ('Witches Leap'), a tale of two local 'carlines' (Jenny and Mause) who would meet of an evening at the edge of the village and leap between two rock outcrops in a kind of aerial dance.^{iv}

Though coal mining as a Carlops industry was still listed in gazetteers of the 1880s^v, all the town's industries were in decline by the late nineteenth century, the village ultimately reinventing itself as a holiday and health resort and promoting itself as a literary tourist site through its associations with the Scottish writer John Ramsay (1686-1758).^{vi}

With North's newly opened Katoomba Coal Mine attracting employees from near and far, is it possible that miners from the Scottish Borders tramped down through Fern Gully and were reminded of their home and its two carlines? While the gully and its waterfall may have triggered a memory of the dell in Ramsay's famous play *The Gentle Shepherd* (set near Carlops) - where "the water fa's and maks a singan din"^{vii} - it would have been those "perpendicular cliffs" facing each other across the gully that particularly caught their imagination and made the 'Witches Leap' the bearer of a rich cultural memory and a link between two towns on opposite sides of the world.
©John Low

'Path to the Witche's Leap'. Glass negative, full plate, Kerry and Co. Sydney c 1884 – 1917 courtesy Power House Museum

End notes

Brian Fox, *Blue Mountains Geographical Dictionary*, Bathurst, NSW: The Author, 2006, p. 308

² See for example: 'Katoomba', *Blue Mountain Echo*, 25 December 1909, p.13 (Supplement); Harry Phillips, *Blue Mountains and Jenolan Caves Illustrated Tourist Guide*, Willoughby NSW: The Author, 1928, p.50

³ J. E. M. Russell, *The Pictorial Guide to the Blue Mountains of NSW and the districts between Parramatta and Bathurst*, Sydney: Gibbs, Shallard & W Co., 1882 (2nd edition), 1885 (3rd edition), pp.30-31 (map), 33. The 3rd edition is available on-line at: <http://nla.gov.au/nla.us-f15299-s37> <accessed 17 November 2013>



⁴ Alfred Colless, *The Tourist Guide to the Blue Mountains*, Penrith NSW: The Author, 1887, p.8

⁵See for example: *Australian Town and Country Journal*, 26 November 1898, p.33

⁶See Esk Valley Trust, Scotland www.eskvalleytrust.org/carlops.html and 'Carlops' www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/carlops <both accessed 17 November 2013> Also see *The AA Road Book of Scotland*, London: Automobile Assoc. & Cassell, [1945] which mentions only one witch "seen to leap on her broomstick" between "two conical rocks at the south end of the village".

⁷Francis Groome, *Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland 1882-4* (www.visionofbritain.org.uk/place/22364) and John Bartholomew, *Gazetteer of the British Isles 1887* (www.visionofbritain.org.uk/descriptions/1876590) at *A Vision of Britain Through Time* (University of Portsmouth) <both accessed 17 November 2013>

⁸ *Gazetteer For Scotland*: www.scottish-places.info/towns/townfirst715.html <accessed 17 November 2013>

⁹Quoted in *The AA Road Book of Scotland*, London: Automobile Assoc. & Cassell, [1945] in its entry on Carlops.

This article has previously been published in Hobby's Outreach March – April 2014 edition

As illustrated above, courtesy of the Power House Museum, *HERITAGE* used the image of a glass negative, full plate, 'Path to the Witche's Leap', Kerry and Co, Sydney, Australia, c. 1884-1917



This photographic negative was published by the Sydney firm Charles Kerry & Co. and is part of the Powerhouse Museum's Tyrrell collection which contains over 2900 glass plate negatives by Kerry & Co.

Although a few appear to be from the 1880s most were produced between 1892 and 1917.

Over this period, and well into the early 1900s, prints from these negatives appeared in many Australian publications and albums of views.

In 1903 the company began producing postcards from these negatives, further establishing the images as some of the most significant and best known early views of New South Wales.

Some of the more significant themes covered by the collection include; views of New South Wales, Queensland, country towns, Sydney, indigenous Australians, the South Pacific, rural life, native flora and fauna, and sentimental views.

In addition a number of significant events from the 1900s are covered by the collection including; embarkation of troops for the Boer War, Hordens fire, the Inauguration of the Commonwealth in 1901, the arrival of the Great White Fleet and the Burns verses Johnson boxing match at Rushcutters Bay in 1908.

Charles Kerry was born in 1858 and by 1885 was running a studio in partnership with CD Jones. This partnership lasted until 1892, when Charles became sole owner and changed the studio's name to Kerry and Co.

By 1890 the company was employing a number of photographers who would become famous in their own right. George Bell who covered rural New South Wales was employed in 1890 and Harold Bradley was doing outdoor work and covering events around Sydney by 1899.

Kerry continued to work in the field and in 1895 he took photographs of Royal National Park for New South Wales Government, photographed Queensland artesian bores and was employed by the New South Wales Government to travel the state and photograph indigenous Australians. In 1897 Kerry led the first party to reach the summit of Mt Kosciuszko in winter conditions and photographed the Jenolan caves.

By 1900 Kerry had turned his studio into one of the largest and most respected photographic establishments in the colony. His new four story premises at 310

George Street Sydney were designed by the architect HC Kent and the third floor studios alone could accommodate 70 people wanting their portraits taken.

In 1913 Kerry retired leaving the running of the studio to his nephew, unfortunately the business did not do well and Kerry and Co. closed its doors in 1917. Kerry himself died in 1928.

Geoff Barker, Curatorial, January, 2009

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Tyrell, James, *Australian Aboriginal and South Sea Islands Implements, Weapons and Curios*, James Tyrell, Sydney, 1929.

Blue Mountains History Conference success



The Blue Mountains History Conference 2014 held in heritage listed Carrington Hotel has been acclaimed a success by feedback from participants in the event on May 10.

The keynote address titled, *A behind the scenes look at pursuing wonder in the Blue Mountains* presented by Associate Professor Julia Horne.

Associate Professor Julia Horne is University Historian and Principal Research Fellow at the University of Sydney where she works on the University's history & heritage. Professor Horne's address was a most interesting expose of the social experience of guest houses in the late 19th century as an important part of the Blue Mountains heritage and in particular the development of early tourism.

She cleverly wove the story which demonstrated the importance of preserving travel letters. She presented an alternate aspect of the history of the Blue Mountains, introducing the social experience of guest houses in particular.

Dr Ian Jack then spoke about educational architecture, "The Heritage of Education in the Blue Mountains", as previously covered in the pages of this Newsletter, covering the Coerwul Academy, St Andrews College and De La Salle College, all at Lithgow, and some connections to the Woodford Academy.

Hector Abrahams, BSc (Arch) (Hons), BArch, ARAIA then addressed the group. Hector has established his own practice, Hector Abrahams Architects, and specialises in the design of new buildings within a historic precinct, with a passion for church architecture.

Hector spoke about the heritage of religion in the Blue Mountains, including in particular the Baptist Church and the Gospel Hall at Katoomba.

After the luncheon break the attendees were entertained by **Christine Wheeler and Friends**, "Rain in the Blue Mountains", songs of Henry Lawson.

Christine joined with skilled musicians Leigh Birkett and Rebecca Daniel, in a unique musical performance of poems from the iconic Henry Lawson.

Dr Ian Jack then joined **Robyn Parker** of the Paragon Restaurant at Katoomba, in discussion about the current status of the conservation of this iconic heritage building.

Doug Knowles, President of the Glenbrook and District Historical Society, delivered the final address. Doug is also an active member of the Springwood Historical Society.

Doug has been interested in the railway across the Blue Mountains for some years and in particular that part of the Great Western Railway which posed the first challenge to establishing the rail link across the Mountains and beyond, that of the Lapstone Hill.

The day concluded with a Devonshire tea and an optional tour of the Paragon Restaurant, including upstairs where the chocolates are made.



Julia Horne



Hector Abrahams



Doug Knowles

William Cox Historical Festival at the Arms of Australia

The William Cox Festival on July 20, 2014 will celebrate one of the most important achievements in early colonial history – the building of a road across the Blue Mountains

Construction of the road built by William Cox started in July 1814 at Emu Plains and finished at Bathurst in March 1815.

With a working party of 32 convicts, four free persons and a handful of guards, Cox completed the 101 mile (163km) road over the mountains in seven months.



The road opened up inland New South Wales to European settlement. Cox's bullock cart was the first wheeled vehicle to pass over the Blue Mountains and down over Mt. York.

To mark the bicentenary, the Nepean District Historical Society with the support of Penrith City Council will re-enact the start of Cox's journey from Regatta Park, Emu Plains at 10.30 am on July 20 to the Arms of Australia Inn Museum for the William Cox Festival and formalities.

The NSW Corp of Marines will be in charge, with displays, drills, and re-enactments from the life and times of the early colony. Members of the 1st Windsor Light Horse Regiment will help keep order.

There will be plenty of food, stalls and entertainment. Tall Timbre Country and Western Band will provide music along with the Penrith City Show Band. Students from the Nepean Creative and Performing Arts High School will perform songs and poetry readings.

Children can enjoy old fashioned games, write on slates in the old school room, ride a pony, pet animals in the animal farm, jump to their heart's desire in the jumping castle try trampoline bungee jumping and join in the ever popular, tug of war and lots more.

The William Cox Festival and Open Day is at the Arms of Australia Inn Museum on the corner of Great Western Highway and Gardenia Avenue, Emu Plains from 9am. Admission is free.

Australian Navy Submarines Centenary

A little remembered centenary is that of the first two submarines AE1 and AE2 arriving in Sydney in May 1914 to join the Australian Navy.

The AE2, the Royal Australian Navy's second submarine, was built in the United Kingdom and commissioned there on February 28, 1914. After commissioning, AE2 accompanied by AE1, sailed to Australia crewed jointly by British and Australian sailors, arriving at Sydney in May 1914.

Following the outbreak of war in August, both submarines proceeded to New Guinea for operations against the German colonies. AE2 was subsequently based in Suva, Fiji, and returned to Sydney in November 1914.

In the following month she joined the second AIF convoy at Albany, Western Australia for passage to European waters and was towed across the Indian Ocean by the former auxiliary cruiser Berrima.

Upon arrival in the Mediterranean, AE2 was assigned to operations off the Gallipoli Peninsula. She was ordered to penetrate the Dardanelles on April 25, 1915. AE2 entered the Dardanelles at 2.30 am. After torpedoing and damaging the Turkish gunboat Peykisevket, she passed through the Narrows, pursued by surface vessels. She ran aground twice beneath the guns of the Turkish forts along the shore, but these guns could not be depressed low enough to fire on her.

Shaking off her pursuers, the submarine entered the Sea of Marmara on April 26. For the next four days she attacked Turkish shipping with her torpedoes, but without success. Nevertheless, her presence was a nasty shock to the Turks.

On April 29, AE2 met the British submarine E14 and the two vessels arranged to rendezvous the next day. E14 was the first of a number of submarines that were to follow AE2 into the Sea of Marmara and effectively close it to Turkish shipping bound for the battlefields of the Gallipoli Peninsula.

As AE2 surfaced at the rendezvous point on 30 April, the Turkish torpedo boat Sultan Hissar approached.

AE2 immediately dived, but she lost trim and went out of control, broaching the surface twice. AE2 was hit in the engine room by Sultan Hissar's guns and the crew had no choice but to abandon ship. Although none of the submarine's complement were lost in the sinking, four were to die in captivity

Project aims at photographing all heritage items in Hawkesbury region

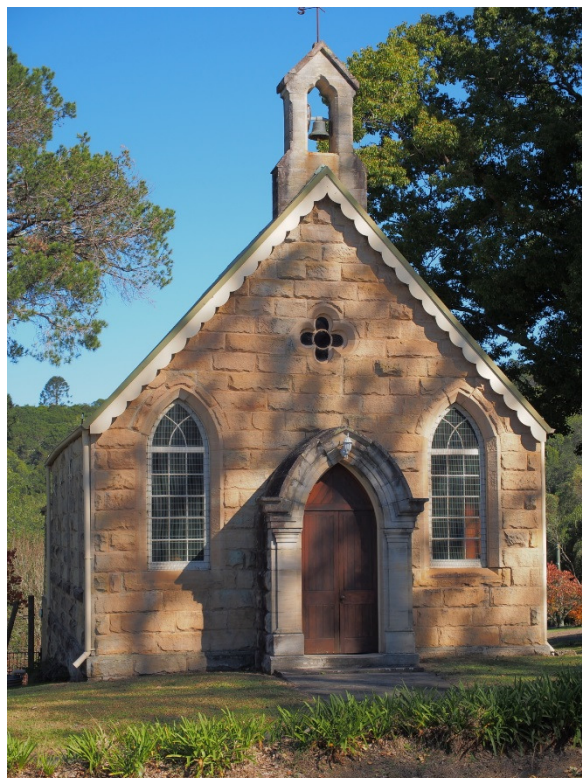
In a previous issue, president of Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society Steve Rawling wrote about the vulnerability of heritage items, even if they were identified in Council LEPs, listed by the National Trust, or were otherwise noted as being of interest.

Unless formally listed on the State Heritage Register, there is no full protection, and their preservation depends on the goodwill of owners, councils, developers, and their ability to withstand the ravages of time and demolition by neglect.

The Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society decided recently to ensure a current record of all items on Hawkesbury City Council's LEP. Many items have numerous historical photographs, but the intention is to create a comprehensive contemporary record.

There can be real challenges in identifying and accessing some items, especially private houses. Other historical societies have, undertaken similar projects. Just how vulnerable are heritage buildings?

The photograph here of St David's Church in Kurrajong Heights illustrates the issue. This splendid photograph was taken by one of our members Paul Hulbert in 2004, who is an experienced photographer. We are fortunate to have him leading the project, assisted by Chris Upton, Steve Rawling advises.



St David's, originally a Presbyterian, now a Uniting Church, is one of a group of buildings in Kurrajong Heights which includes the building now known as the restaurant Lochiel, which was built 40 years earlier than St David's, in the 1820's.

Even Lochiel has no absolute protection, despite being the oldest building between Richmond and Bathurst, and pre-dating some other buildings which are on the State Heritage Register.

A proposal some years ago by the Hawkesbury Branch of the National Trust for it and St David's to be included got nowhere.

St David's was built in 1867, and I was surprised and pleased to learn at the recent BMACHO Conference that this pre-dates any churches on "the other side", the Blue Mountains plateau. Despite the significance of this group of buildings, when the ill-fated proposal for Bells Line Expressway was prepared by the then RTA, the proposed route went straight through the centre of Kurrajong Heights, requiring demolition of the whole group. While that was rejected, there is still a risk that future road upgrades could threaten.

Contributed by Steve Rawling AM, FAICD

Barry O'Keefe (1933-2014)

Distinguished jurist, ICAC chief, mayor, defender of heritage - a man decent in all things

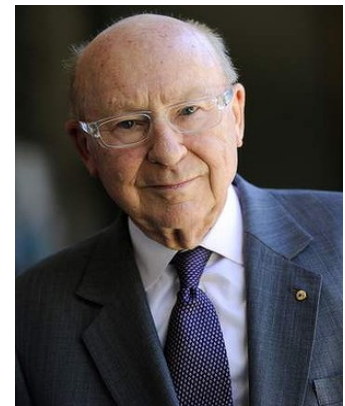
It is difficult for obituary writers to adequately prepare a definitive but brief biography of Barry O'Keefe, QC, AM - a distinguished jurist, barrister, Queen's Counsel the state's second ICAC commissioner, long term councillor and mayor of Mosman, president of the Local Government Association and president of National Trust of Australia (NSW) among the many roles he performed in a lifetime of service to the community.

He was an absolute gentleman, courtesy and decent in all things. He understood people and appreciated all they did to make this a better world.

Barry Stanley John O'Keefe was born on May 20, 1933, the first of three children to Ray O'Keefe and his wife Thelma (nee Kennedy). Ray owned a furniture store on Pitt Street and was later mayor of Waverley, while Thelma was reputedly the first woman to surf at Bondi Beach. For the rest of his life, Barry talked to Thelma almost every day, no matter where in the world he was, and always cited Ray's gentleness as a model for how a man could be.

His generous support for the work of National Trust has meant that many sectors of Australia's heritage have benefitted.

Barry served on the board of National Trust Australia (NSW) as a member, vice president and then from 1991 to 2006 as president. Under his leadership, the Trust emerged from bankruptcy and built up a large and active membership of heritage defenders.



As former president of the Friends of Woodford Academy, John Leary, OAM and a friend of the deceased remembers well the regular visits of Barry O'Keefe to the iconic sandstone former inn, later gentleman's resident and educational facility.

Barry loved the property and had great respect and affection for those volunteers who maintained the heritage site. He often would arrive unannounced just for a cup of tea and a chat and always a thank you to the volunteers

It was Barry who first considered the value of this 1830s property when it was falling down around the then owner, Gertrude McManamey the sole surviving daughter of the academy foundation John McManamey.

Barry using his own money spent a substantial amount to restore parts of the building particularly the eastern part of the main building. He did this unheralded and in the manner which marked his ethos of service.

Woodford Academy was donated to the National Trust in 1979 by Miss McManamey with an agreement that she be allowed to continue living there until her death. She died in 1988 having left the house 2 years before to be cared for at the Queen Victoria Homes, Wentworth Falls.

Barry had a major part in obtaining a \$1 million Centenary of Federation grant from the Federal Government to help restore the property. He seldom missed a fund raising function at Woodford Academy and made sure that the day after the event there was a thank you note to the president and volunteers of the Friends accompanied by a donation of several hundred dollars.

The National Trust was not the only organisation to benefit from this generous benefactor. His interests were wide and diverse and ever thing he did was with a vibrant energy

O'Keefe went to the bar in 1957 and at about the same time started lecturing at the University of Technology, Sydney where he was popular with the law students. There is a story that students dubbed him "the Mild One", in contrast with his brother Johnny O'Keefe, "the Wild One" OF Australian rock-n-roll.

He took silk in 1974 and as a formidable cross examiner was renowned for his ability to manage and analyse masses of complex facts. He appeared frequently before the NSW Supreme Court, the High Court of Australia and the Privy Council.

He served as president of the NSW Bar Council from 1990 to 1991 and sat on the executive of the Law Council of Australia from 1992 to 1993. In 1993 he was appointed as Chief Judge of the Commercial Division of the NSW Supreme Court. In 1994 he accepted a five-year appointment as commissioner of NSW's Independent Commission against Corruption

In 1989, Barry O'Keefe, QC was made a Member of the Order of Australia for service to local government.

Although terminally ill in 2013 O'Keefe agreed to the request of the Australian Catholic bishops to chair the Truth, Justice and Healing Council, established to co-ordinate the church's submission to the royal Commission on Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Two days before Barry O'Keefe's death, Pope Francis created him Knight Grand Cross (First Class) of the Order of St Gregory the Great – the highest papal honour an ordinary layperson can receive.

Barry is survived by Janette (Jan) his wife of 52 years, children Phillip, Vanessa, Andrew and Sophie and seven grandchildren and sister Anne.

Barry O'Keefe Photograph: Justin McManus

This is an abridged version of an obituary by Philip O'Keefe and Kevin McCann which appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald on May 24-25, 2014 with anecdotes from John Leary.

Bits and Pieces

Gallery thanks Faulconbridge fires

A \$7000 cheque has been presented to the Faulconbridge Rural Fire Service as a thank you for their efforts to protect Norman Lindsay Gallery during last year's bushfires.

The donation was made possible after Helen Glad, Norman Lindsay's granddaughter generously gave an original Lindsay artwork to be sold with the proceeds to go towards the local fire brigade for the purchase of equipment.

Descendant of John Britty North entertained at BM history conference

Singer and instrumentalist Christine Wheeler one of the three performers who presented the musical interlude *Rain in the Mountains --- Songs of Henry Lawson* at the Blue Mountains History conference at The Carrington Hotel, Katoomba turns out to be the great, great grand daughter of John Britty North.

JB North was leading force in developing oil shale resources of Megalong Valley and by 1877 in partnership with RH Reynolds was developing Katoomba and the coal outcrops in the Jamison Valley. In 1880 he claimed the oil shale resources in the Ruined Castle area. Source: Pells, Phillip J and Hammon Phillip J, *The Burning Mist of Time*, 2009

National Trust Heritage Award – Hartley Revitalisation Project

The National Trust Heritage Awards for 2014 were announced on May 14 and Hartley figured highly amongst the achievements. The Hartley Project won the category for Adaptive Reuse – Government Corporation, for work at the Hartley Historic Site. The assessors declared that although the project was a long time in coming, it led to many effective decisions being made, which followed on from the Conservation Management Plan for the Historic Site, in the various proposals to relocate an intrusive amenities block to a discrete location.

The Awards followed the theme this year of "Journeys", and this was referring to the "journeys that the Australia made from indigenous walkabout to the immigrants' tale."

The National Trust spokesman Brian Scarsbrick, declared that the winners in several categories have helped provide the nation with a "wonderful gift for the future".

The National Trust Awards honour communities and individuals for their outstanding contributions to Australia's heritage landmarks, saving our past for future generations.

The Hartley project was managed by Steve Ring, Hartley Historic Site NSW NPW, with input from Jum Stephany, Truman Zaniol and Associates.



Has Columbus's ship been found?

A shipwreck found off the north coast of Haiti could be the 500-year-old remains of the Santa Maria which led Christopher Columbus' voyage to the New World.

All the geographical, underwater topography and archaeological evidence strongly suggests this wreck is Columbus' famous flagship according to Marine investigator Barry Clifford. But Haitian officials said it was unlikely anything remained of the wreck. The wreck was discovered in about three to five metres of water and matches the length of the Santa Maria's 35-metre keel.

Between 1492 and 1503, Columbus completed four round-trip voyages between Spain and the Americas, all of them under the sponsorship of the Crown of Castile. These voyages marked the beginning of the European exploration and colonization of the American continents, and are thus of enormous significance in Western history.

Columbus always insisted, in the face of mounting evidence to the contrary, that the lands that he visited during those voyages were part of the Asian continent, as previously described by Marco Polo and other European travelers.



Columbus' refusal to accept that the lands he had visited and claimed for Spain were not part of Asia might explain, in part, why the American continent was named after the Florentine explorer Amerigo Vespucci and not after Columbus.

Restoration Project - Second Fleeter, Paul Bushell

The main transport route of choice from Sydney through the Blue Mountains is the Great Western Highway, via Penrith, but everyone has at least tried Bells Line of Road via Windsor and Richmond. Driving through those towns, how could you not absorb the historic ambience of the Hawkesbury, the district which saved the first European settlers of Australia from starvation? How could you not enjoy the views from Kurrajong?

It's easy to understand, then, the passion that's driving descendants of two of the earliest settler families of the Hawkesbury to 'do something' about restoring a historic grave at Wilberforce.

Wilberforce Cemetery is the last resting place for 34 people who arrived on the First, Second and Third Fleets and being so historic, it has Heritage listing. Agitation from the Friends of Wilberforce Cemetery has led to major drainage works at the Cemetery, and the erection of a protective security fence. This provides a better guarantee that restoration efforts will not be wasted.

One of the Cemetery's Second Fleetters is Paul Bushell. Arriving in 1790, from 1798 to his death in 1853 he lived at Wilberforce. Here he married Isabella Brown, eldest daughter of David Brown (a convict who arrived in 1792) and Eleanor Fleming (a Third Fleeter who arrived in 1791 as a child with her NSW Corps father). All four, along with six other members of their family) were buried at Wilberforce Cemetery in an impressive double gravesite featuring two altar monuments.



Paul Bushell



These had collapsed by 1990, due to weathering, erosion and vandalism. Government grants are not available for private headstones where a descendant family exists but, when individuals visit the cemetery, the organisational task and high cost of restoring them seems overwhelming as a private venture. The widespread use of the internet created new opportunities for coordinated action.

It's now much easier to find and communicate with the right people. Readers of Louise Wilson's book *Paul Bushell, Second Fleeter* (published in 2010, advertised on the internet and Highly Commended in a recent national family history award), were galvanised to 'do something'. A committee of people living in NSW, Victoria, Queensland and WA was formed in 2013 and a Community Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BushellBrownGraveProject> was set up.

Another hurdle was the difficulty of locating any stonemasons, let alone masons with the necessary skills. The committee eventually found a team of two, based at Rookwood Cemetery, who were prepared to work at Wilberforce.

The hassles for a volunteer Committee of establishing, maintaining and eventually closing down a Trust Fund when the task was complete (what would we do with the money?) were overcome by building up a good working relationship with the Hawkesbury City Council. The Council has legal responsibility for everything that happens at the Cemetery and has generously agreed to act as our 'banker' by establishing a special account into which funds collected for our project will be paid. Council, being fully across the Heritage issues, will manage the construction phase, pay the contractors out of our account, accept the public liability risk and retain any funds left over as a contribution to the next grave restoration project.

The advent of crowd funding dealt with the legalities of soliciting the public for funds, especially beyond state borders. We hope you'll check out our trail-blazing fund-raising project on <http://www.pozible.com/project/177971>, watch our video, read our story and make a contribution.

If we don't meet our fund-raising target of \$16,000 the whole project will lapse. We're hoping to zoom past the target, as people recognise this project's capacity to help restore other historic graves in the Hawkesbury, so please tell your friends and family. And we hope we've given you a 'template' for restoring historic graves in your area and have inspired you to begin.

Louise Wilson, Project Co-ordinator

The Blue Labyrinth

For anyone who likes bushwalking and good books, this second edition by Bruce Cameron is a must have item! Hard covered and 350 glossy pages long, it is packed with information, history, maps, with most of the text illustrated by adjacent, clear photographs. It is worth every cent in your bookcase for the good reading, entertainment and many, many references. *Allan Walsh.*

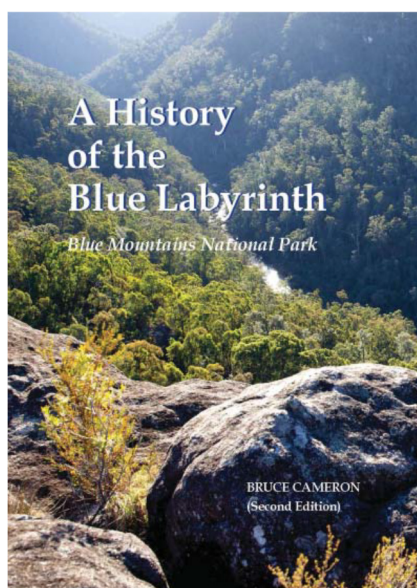
THE BLUE LABYRINTH is the tract of land between the Blue Mountains townships of Wentworth Falls and Glenbrook, stretching south almost to the stored water of Warragamba Dam, and then east to the Nepean Gorge. It is part of the Blue Mountains National Park, which in total covers almost 216 000 hectares of mountain plateau between the coastal lowlands and the Great Dividing Range. The Blue Labyrinth is included in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. The eastern edge of the Blue Labyrinth is on the suburban fringe of Sydney, and is around 50 kilometres from the centre of the city. *Bruce Cameron*

This is a place forgotten to many, hovering vaguely on the edge of perception for some, known and loved by a few. But it was not always so. Thousands of years before the Blue Labyrinth was bypassed by suburbia, it was roamed by the first Australians: the land was a larder, a hardware store, a school, a cathedral ... and a home. In what seems to us today a difficult landscape, more than a thousand sites prove that Aboriginal people knew

every rocky knoll, every pool, creek and crevice. The many strands of human endeavour explored in this book lie like morning mist across the maze of valleys, but add immeasurable layers of meaning to the beautiful, intriguing Blue Labyrinth. We desperately need such places for nourishment and renewal ... and redemption. *Ian Brown*

Bruce Cameron's book is a work of love. Its trove embraces the broad sweep of the Labyrinth. Not just as you would see laid out on a map: the prose hints at the butcherbird's song beyond the fence, and from that moment back, to ancient floods from melting ice that scoured distant lands long since displaced, laying down the matrix of sandstone at our feet. But the strength of Bruce's book lies in its sympathetic view of human movement across the Labyrinth, where black and white gain complex shades of meaning and interaction. Read this book and look up, find a place within the horizon it describes. *Tom Williams*

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Offshoots: A Florilegium from Cairns Botanical Gardens coming to Mount Tomah

Offshoots is a vibrant exhibition of illustrations by Cairns artist Julie techniques to document the the Cairns Botanic Gardens.

The exhibition will go on show at the Mt Tomah from June 29 until August

Julie McEnerny's technical skills as a only by her insight into the cultural her subject matter and by her sheer Botanic Gardens illustrator in

After five years on the *Offshoots* substantial, fascinating and worthy of collection of plants at the Cairns

The exhibition will be open daily from Centre at the Blue Mountains Botanic Garden with entrance to the garden and exhibition being free of charge.

For further information telephone: 4567 3000.



contemporary botanical McEnerny, who uses a variety of extraordinary plant collection of

Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, 31

botanical illustrator are matched and ecological significance of dedication to her role as Cairns residence.

project, the body of work is representing the diverse Botanic Gardens.

9.30am to 5pm in the Visitor

BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

REGISTERED OFFICE 1/19 Stypanra Place, **Springwood 2777 (02) 4751 5834. E-mail:**
committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au or j.koperberg@big.com Website: www.bluemountainsheritage.com.au
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THE ORGANISATION Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Organisations Inc (BMACHO) was established in April 2006 after local historical and heritage societies and individuals recognised the need for the creation of a cultural heritage strategy for the local government area (LGA) of Blue Mountains City Council. The constituency now embraces but is not limited to the LGAs of Blue Mountains, Lithgow, Hawkesbury, Penrith and Mudgee. BMACHO membership includes historical and heritage groups, museums, commercial enterprises with an historical or heritage component in its core business, local government (local studies units, library collections) and a limited number of individual members by invitation such as but not necessarily academics. The objectives of the organisation are i. to raise public consciousness of the value of cultural heritage; ii. to encourage and assist cultural heritage; 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.

AFFILIATIONS BMACHO is a member of the Royal Australian Historical Society and is affiliated with the Better Planning Network.

PUBLICATIONS BMACHO's official newsletter *HERITAGE* is edited by Patsy Moppett; the annual refereed *Blue Mountains History Journal* is edited by Dr Peter Rickwood and occasional papers are published from time to time.

MEMBERSHIP The following organisations are members of BMACHO: Blue Mountains Botanic Garden - Mount Tomah, Blue Mountains City Library, Blue Mountains Cultural Heritage Centre, Blue Mountain Education and Research Trust, Blue Mountains Historical Society Inc., Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc. Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute, Eskbank Rail Heritage Centre, Everglades Historic House & Gardens, Friends of Norman Lindsay Gallery, Glenbrook & District Historical Society Inc., Hartley Valley District Progress Association, Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society Inc., Lithgow and District Family History Society Inc., Lithgow Mining Museum Inc., Lithgow Regional Library – Local Studies, Lithgow Small Arms Factory Museum Inc., Mt Victoria and District Historical Society Inc., Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Historical Society Inc. (including Turkish Bath Museum), Mudgee Historical Society Inc., National Trust of Australia (NSW) – Blue Mountains Branch, National Trust of Australia (NSW) – Lithgow Branch, Nepean District Historical Society Inc., Paragon Restaurant – Katoomba, 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, Woodford Academy Management Committee, Zig Zag Railway Co-op Ltd. The following are individual members: Ray Christison, Associate Professor Ian Jack, Joan Kent, John Low OAM, Ian Milliss, Patsy Moppett, Professor Barrie Reynolds, Dr Peter Rickwood and Dr Peter Stanbury OAM.

COMMITTEE: The management committee for the remainder of 2013-14 is: Ian Jack (vice president and acting president), Jan Koperberg (secretary/acting treasurer), Roy Bennett, Wendy Hawkes, Patsy Moppett, Dick Morony (public officer), Scott Pollock, Suzanne Smith and Richard Woolley.

DISCLAIMER Views and opinions expressed in *HERITAGE* originate from many sources and contributors. Every effort is taken to ensure accuracy of material. Content does not necessarily represent or reflect the views and opinions of BMACHO, its committee or its members. If errors are found feedback is most welcome.