

# *Heritage*

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

*January-February 2015*

*ISSUE 36*

*ISSN 2203-4366*

## ***Flora in the Cemetery***

It has been said that biodiversity lives where the dead people go, that a cemetery may be the last place you would think to look for something alive. Very often it is the vegetation that adds the charm and ambience, to the sense of peace and tranquillity we experience in a graveyard.

Many cemeteries are found in association with a church or chapel, a lawn cemetery and a columbarium or a crematorium. Many more are isolated entities, with difficulty of access and no longer in use.



*St David's, Kurrajong Heights*

Some cemeteries are elaborately landscaped with the botanical elements impacting upon the overall atmosphere and design, such as cemeteries in an urban setting. Other burial grounds are void of design, and run to natural landscape features of native vegetation in a remnant woodland or grassland setting.

### **Natural vegetation**

Cemeteries are often life-saving refuges for many of the most endangered native plants and on occasions for entire ecosystems. Some cemeteries contain significant remnants or indications of the original native vegetation. This can be quite significant within an urban situation where development has covered up the majority of natural areas, or in rural areas where agriculture has disturbed the majority of the landscape through cropping and grazing. Cemeteries, along with stock reserves, road and rail reserves can harbour good quality woodland.

Many areas have been cleared for grazing, and only the understorey remains. This can be a very valuable factor in the maintenance of genetic diversity, in the preservation of the original species from when the country was settled. Although small and disjointed, the remnants may contain high species diversity, and could form the core of say a “Grassy White Box Woodlands” community. This community was found widely across the slopes and ranges of eastern Australia from QLD down to central Victoria. Agriculture has played a large part in the reduction of its extent to 0.01% of its former distribution.



*Katoomba General Cemetery*

Large expanses of intact White box (*Eucalyptus alba*) woodland are rare and any remnants are significant. They comprise a well spaced canopy of Eucalypts, few shrubs, but a diverse collection of ground-covering wild flowers and grasses, such as the native Yam Daisy (*Microseris scapigera*), which was once abundant aboriginal food. It is now only found in un-grazed woodlands. The White box community is usually found in a wider community associated with Yellow box and Blakely's Red Gum.

Mowing of native grasses and groundcovers may be required less often than for exotic grasses, however access to the grave sites should be maintained in a safe condition. A balance must be achieved between the protection of the native plant community and the protection of the cemetery visitor.

As the species in a natural area may be a part of a well preserved example of a wider ecosystem, their value may also relate to the birds or other fauna they attract, and therefore add to the value of the cemetery.

### **Exotic vegetation**

Early burial grounds often contain a variety of plantings which are no longer evident elsewhere. They also present an over view of historical vegetation, species often planted upon the burial plot of a loved one, planted within the cemetery grounds to represent family ties and traditions, or simply to beautify the hallowed grounds. The arrangement of burial areas, alignment of driveways and paths, avenues of trees and massing of shrubs add significance to the cemetery design.

The grounds can still illustrate a continuing tendency for the use of plantings that relate to the particular person buried there, a family property, the religious denomination, the land of birth and so on, and has always been a socially accepted way of dealing with bereavement. Exotic evergreen trees, bulbs, roses and other original grave or landscape plantings contribute to the cemetery's visual and nostalgic quality. Plantings are often chosen for their



symbolic meanings, such as rosemary. Even for exotics therefore, cemeteries may provide a valuable resource as a botanical collection or as a source of unusual or rare specimens. Mowing and slashing of lawn grasses will be required regularly, to maintain visual amenity and safe passage throughout the graveyard. In lawn cemeteries and war graveyards of course, it is a given that mowing occurs.



*Blackheath General*



*Wentworth Falls General*

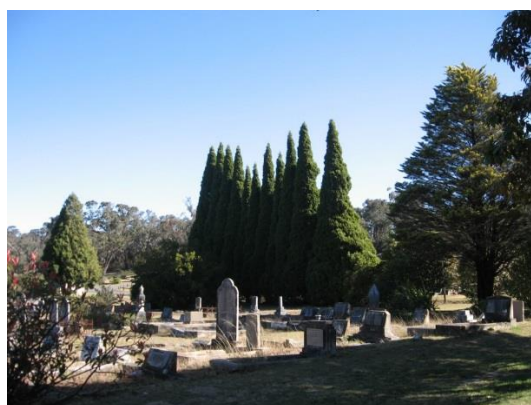
### ***The wider landscape***

Often, both formal landscaping and natural areas lend themselves to ease of maintenance, with decoration and enhancement limited to the burial mounds themselves, or the massing of shrubs and trees to achieve screening and protection.

A cemetery within an urban environment will also be required to address amenity from a visual perspective for the visitor. The care and maintenance of a cemetery that has regular visitation will have a higher community expectation in regard to the upkeep of the site, quite apart from the safety aspects of increased requirements for access and safety for family, visitors and tourists.



*Mt Victoria General*



*Wentworth Falls General*

A rural cemetery or isolated grave site will have less demand for the formal features of a burial ground, and the level of maintenance expectation is often formulated by the groups of families and local people who carry out the maintenance and care of the place.

A cemetery can often become a place of repose for visitors, to rest a while and reflect on life and family, which would entail the inclusion of park furniture in a landscaped setting. The placement of vegetation and furniture must be carried out around trails and pathways, driveways and other ornaments, commemorative walls and columbarium, lawn burial areas and chapels, and of course the grave markers and site signage. It really does become quite a complex site, especially within an urban setting.

Management should have regard for the possibility of the graveyard being a harbour for populations of rare or endangered species, botanical rarities both introduced and local, and

they can become a valuable resource for horticultural and botanical research and conservation.

### **Threats to integrity**

Weeds are also found in cemeteries. With a weed being commonly defined as a plant growing somewhere where it is not wanted, the interpretation of what is a weed may vary from landscape to landscape. Many exotic plants have become weeds over time, becoming invasive, such as vines like *vinca major* and ivy, seeding shrubs like cotoneaster and suckering shrubs like some wattles, and trees like *robinia*.

Weed control is preferred to be via manual removal, use of selective herbicides and careful trimming and mowing.



*Emu Plains General*

The native understorey plants are extremely sensitive to disturbances such as grazing, ploughing and fertilizing, and if these disturbances occur, most native species are replaced by weeds, pasture legumes and exotic grasses, and in extreme cases only a few tough native species remain. Exclusion of livestock is imperative to limit the spread of weed seed and the compaction of soils and vegetation.

Roots of trees can threaten the stability of monuments, and the removal of suckers and seedlings may be required to reduce the possibility of further damage. Diseased branches and limbs require removal and periodic inspections carried out to monitor further damage, decay or intrusion. The type of soil and bedrock will impact upon this aspect of deterioration. Vandalism is known to cause damage to grave markers and cemetery furniture, but it can also impact upon vegetation, through compaction and destruction, theft and fire.

Rabbits can undermine monuments, and allow other vermin and wildlife access to further exacerbate the situation. Their tendency is to dig under a solid object such as a log or in some cases, a grave marker. The type of vegetation will also provide dietary requirements, and rabbits tend to seek out exotic species, particularly tubers and bulbs in the winter season, creating uneven ground, erosion and soil accumulation against grave markers. Bushfire risk can be exacerbated with the growth of vegetation, and therefore control of growth becomes a balance to retain the species diversity whilst at the same time enabling the protection of adjoining properties through control of bushfire risk and fuel reduction. Even cemetery maintenance can be a threat, through misuse of machinery, slashing and the over enthusiastic use of clearing practices and herbicides.

### **Management**

The Cemetery Conservation Management Plan has a large role to play in biodiversity conservation, to observe and record the vegetation within a graveyard area, and formulate measures for the preservation and conservation of the existing species.

Priorities for maintenance can be categorized into the most immediate or urgent work, through to necessary activities, and down to the desirable work which can be carried out subject to resources. This program would then be followed up by a monitoring program.

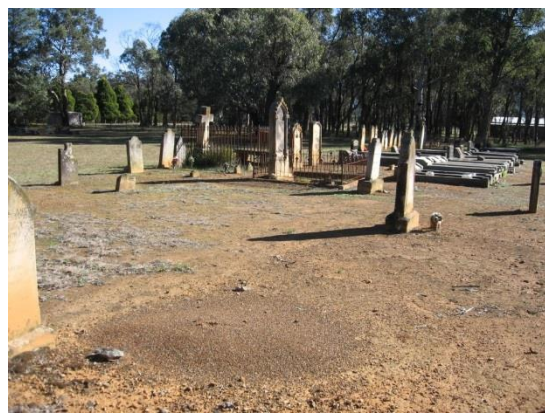
A number of measures can be incorporated to assist site managers in biodiversity conservation, including guidelines for:



- Fencing and stock exclusion
- Seed collection
- Survey and monitoring
- Regeneration
- Propagation and revegetation
- Maintaining tree cover
- Limit consideration of new species
- Mowing and slashing
- Signage
- Weed and sapling control
- Feral animal control
- Grave maintenance
- Consultation and cooperation with adjoining landholders
- Land tenure arrangements
- Driveway/pathway maintenance, including drainage



*Blackheath General*



*Hartley General*

### ***Compromise***

The conservation and management of cemeteries will often involve compromise. The need to conserve the cemetery as a place of historical, botanical and scientific significance should be balanced with the need for the provision of safe access and interpretation opportunities.

Some of the areas where this will occur are:

- Mosses and lichens are vegetation, but suggest damp problems, adversely impacting upon the longevity of grave markers and their inscriptions;
- Rabbits help with vegetation control, but undermine graves and other infrastructure;
- Climatic changes will affect survival of some species, and efforts to retain some species may be in vain;
- Native grasses may be important to biodiversity, but long grass creates fire and safety risks
- Mature trees should be retained and preserved, but suckers need removal for stability of grave markers and other infrastructure;
- Cemetery management should be in secure hands, but this may limit access arrangements.



*Emu Plains General*



*Mt Victoria General*

### **Conclusion**

The initial step undertaken in the preservation and conservation of vegetation in a cemetery is to record the species present. This may need to be undertaken on a number of occasions throughout the year to establish seasonal variations in species and their occurrence.

The existence of large or unusual trees or plants should be noted, along with the stories behind the use of particular species, if available. A site plan should be drawn up showing the location of pathways, structures, interesting monuments or plantings, graveyard furniture, and of course the grave markers themselves.

The assistance of your local Greening Australia, Conservation Volunteers or other Landcare or green group can often be enlisted to assist with identification, care and control.

The Conservation Management Plan can pull all this together in an orderly fashion, and ensure thorough documentation and conservation is carried out for the benefit of the community, families, tourists, visitors and property managers. *Patsy Moppett*

### **References**

*Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation, National Trust of Australia  
Dept of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts website  
Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research website  
Blue Mountains Cemeteries, Conservation Management Plans, Hubert Architects 2002  
Grassy Box Woodland in the Bathurst Region, Greening Bathurst  
Cemeteries – Guidelines for their Care and Conservation, Dept of Planning 1992*

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## ***Food for thought ..... Editor's note***

Having touched on heritage listing in a previous issue of *Heritage*, it is worth considering further when a heritage listing may be too hastily applied.

Industrial heritage, like any heritage sites, are an important part of our built environment and landscape. They provide tangible and intangible links to our past and can have great potential to play significant roles in the future of our towns and rural environments.

Industrial remains can include dramatic buildings, landscapes and precincts which can give character to our environments. If adaptive reuse is an option for the place, it can contribute to the building of social and cultural capital, environmental sustainability and urban regeneration.



The problem for small isolated rural communities is that of where are the investors (both government and private sector) who will invest in reuse projects for large scale industrial sites? Opportunities for reuse of these sites is hampered as industrial practices and areas continue to change.

No one would deny that the remains of industrial complexes demonstrate industrial cultures of historical, technological, social, architectural or scientific value. They link the present world to the work of the past, recalling the industrial processes and social structures and the work of those who laboured in such places. Industrial sites may be held dear by the community in which they are located, or dismissed as unsightly signs of dilapidation and decay. Their history and significance can continue to be recorded on an inventory sheet indefinitely.

Industrial activities and processes undergo constant change and development, so the history of industrial sites is often one of continual change and adaptation. Changes in products and technology mean that it is not easy to keep using purpose built industrial places for their original function. Adaptive reuse of places that have been heritage listed through Burra Charter principles could convert a site to another use. Its reuse can provide understanding and interpretation of the history of the place, and provide another layer in its history.

It is not always possible to find a long term reuse that is financially viable and appropriate to the heritage context, when an industrial site is heritage listed. Abandoned (if they are really abandoned) or even simply vacant buildings are subject to decay and vandalism, and can be subject to contamination, outdated infrastructure and regional isolation. All of which contribute to discourage investors. Such conditions will even preclude demolition on economic grounds. Vacant, unused industrial sites, particularly in the vicinity of urban areas, will contribute to loss in property value, loss of jobs and tax revenue, a threat to public health and the environment, and potential liability for contamination issues. We should not be too



quick to apply a heritage listing to an industrial site when its industrial purpose is simply in a state of flux.

To propose listing of an industrial site may assume that the industrial site is abandoned with no potential for rejuvenation as an industry. However, the landowner may have long term plans as yet not revealed.

Heritage places in rural areas and urban redevelopment zones are at the greatest risk, and when private owners are faced with heritage listing and the associated costs the reactions are frequently negative, which often explains unauthorized building demolitions. One of the most problematic reasons for loss of heritage also arises from demolition by neglect in rural areas and communities.



Council would always like to see a building use recommenced with an employment generating facility to aid with growth and development of the town, in conjunction with associated existing and proposed freight/infrastructure development. To add a heritage “burden” to a site may be inappropriate on an economic basis, the economics of the town being significant to its future.

Council may not be in a position to offer incentives to support investment on a heritage basis at the level of support which would be required to redevelop the site. It is still potentially a functional site, capable of update and rejuvenation as a fully operational industrial site. To heritage list a building or site may suggest that it has no further purpose in its original function, and Council should not pre-empt abandonment through heritage listing of the site. Although listing is not specifically advised against, and heritage listing is often seen as the preferred way to preserve industrial heritage, we should not be too hasty in establishing a listing due to the economic implications. Economic incentives may be more appropriate in order to allow the industry to continue.

Having said that, an inventory sheet should still be maintained for the site, and be revised with accurate information to reflect the changing site circumstances. It should be regularly reviewed and updated, with the history of the construction and occupation of the site being further investigated.

*Patsy Moppett*

*References:*

*The Adaptive Reuse of Historic Industrial Buildings, Sophie Cantell, 2005*

*Adaptive Reuse of Industrial Heritage: Opportunities & Challenges, Heritage Council of Victoria 2013*

*Adaptive Reuse of Heritage Places Policy, NSW Office of Environment & Heritage 2012*

*New Uses for Heritage Places, NSW Heritage Council 2008*

### ***Santa Maria Convent, Lady of the Nativity Church, Lawson***

This site on the Great Western Highway at Lawson comprises a complex of buildings with a significant history of a multitude of uses over time. Currently the site includes the Our Lady of the Nativity Church, school and presbytery, and the Santa Maria Convent and



Conference Centre. It is set in attractive gardens off the edge of the highway, still retaining an ability to be a place of peace and solitude.



*Our Lady of the Nativity Church*



*School*

"Dalmeny" cottage was erected in the late 1880s by John & Hannah Wheeler. In 1919 it was loaned by the Wheelers as a home to the Red Cross Society for military nurses and influenza victims. In 1920 it was bought by the firm Farmer & Co as a holiday centre for its female shop assistants until 1928. The new owner, Richard Meagher, gave the building to the Good Samaritan Sisters in 1929.

The Good Samaritan Sisters had arrived in Lawson in 1919, residing at "Cabra" a dwelling on the highway near Ridge Street, adjacent to the original Our Lady Help of Christians Church (Lawson Catholic Church). Upon the establishment of the new Church of Our Lady of the Nativity on its current site, the sisters were asked to staff a school and commence a girls' boarding school at "Dalmeny". The Ridge Street weatherboard church was dismantled and transferred behind "Dalmeny" and the new church, and used as a library for the school. The boarding school was named "Santa Maria" Good Samaritan Convent Boarding School for Girls, with accommodation on the western side of 'Dalmeny'. The boarding school operated for 42 years, closing its doors in 1981. The school premises was then used for school and youth camps, retreats and prayer groups. Holiday accommodation for disabled persons commenced in 1983 in the convent, a new wing was added in 1995, and continued until 2002. A sensory garden was established on the slopes behind the convent, giving inmates opportunity for peace and solitude. The Santa Maria Conference Centre opened in 2003 and continues today, with a number of fibro and portable shed buildings associated with the centre included in the complex. A small chapel also now graces the rear garden. The Santa Maria Convent is an important Victorian Regency style residence which survives in a fairly intact condition with some of its original gardens.

The stone cottage known as "Durham Lodge" was built about 1900 as a country retreat, "Yarrowee", by the prominent journalist Watkin Wynne. Wynne revived the ailing Sydney Daily Telegraph in 1879, continuing his association with the paper until his death in 1921. He was also a prominent Freemason. He sold the premises to Richard Meagher in 1920, who renamed the residence. Meagher had bought the premises as a retreat for his sick wife. After her death in 1924, there being no children of the marriage and as a memorial to his wife, he gave "Durham Lodge" to the Catholic Church, which became the presbytery. The Presbytery is a substantial Federation bungalow style residence in a prominent position.



*Durham Lodge*



*Dalmeny*



*School bell & sensory garden gate*



*Quiet corner*

The new brick Our Lady of the Nativity Church was built by Meagher in 1929, and he also financed the move of the Ridge Street church to the site. The old Our Lady of the Nativity Church became a parish school, with boarders until 1979. The new Our Lady of the Nativity Church is a fine Inter-War Catholic Church featuring sandstone detailing and statuary in the north gable. A brick annex was built off the side of the church building in 1965, incorporating offices, sacristy, meeting room and amenities.

*Patsy Moppett*

*References:*

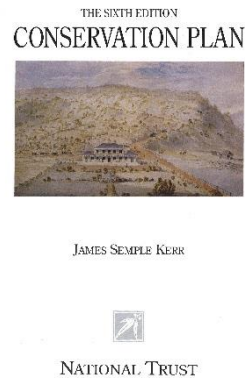
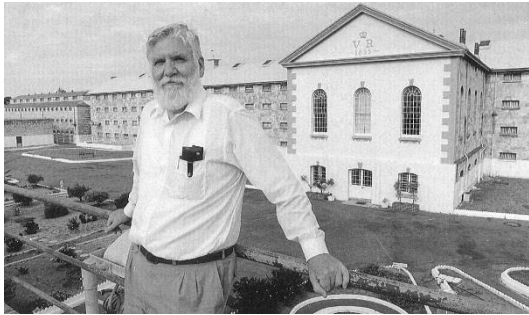
*Sharing a Journey, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, compiled by Allan Walsh & Companions, 2004*  
*Santa Maria Convent and Durham Lodge, NSW Heritage Inventory Sheet*

***James Semple Kerr (6 July 1932 - 15 October 2014)***

The Sydney Morning Herald stated on 22 November 2014 that James Semple Kerr was “an innovative conservator who strove to connect the past with the future..... [his] legacy is worldwide”.

James Semple Kerr passed away on 15 October 2014. He was an architectural historian and heritage practitioner in Australia, who was an early member of Australia ICOMOS, being a major contributor to the drafting of the Burra Charter, and developing standards for conservation practice such as conservation management plans. His publication *Conservation Plan: A guide to the preparation of conservation plans for places of European cultural significance* (1982) has guided building conservation in Australia and around the world. The SMH added that *Conservation Plan* “.....showed a generation of people how to read the fabric of historic buildings, and to use that understanding to inform decisions not only about what was important, but how best to change it....”. The





publication was in its 13<sup>th</sup> Edition at his death.

His works were influenced by his studies in London with architectural historian Sir Nikolaus Pevsner, and by his wife, historian Joan Kerr (nee Lyndon), an expert in her own right. He was an established writer and publisher, photographer and draftsman. He documented the many sites that he studied in intricate detail, and had a wicked and irreverent sense of humour.

### ***The Conservation Plan***

“At its simplest a conservation plan is a document which sets out what is significant in a place and, consequently, what policies are appropriate to enable that significance to be retained in its future use and development. For most places it deals with the management of change.”

The document sets out how to go about understanding the heritage place, what is cultural significance and how to gather and document evidence, how to co-ordinate and analyze that evidence, and assessing cultural significance. It sets out the information needed for policy development, actually developing the policy, its flexibility and use, and maintenance and supervision of the heritage works.

The Glossary deals with issues and questions that have been brought up by readers over recent years, and is intended to aid clear thinking. These issues include agreements, boundaries, confidentiality, charters, copyright, curtilage, fabric, facades, finding, gardens and landscapes, maintenance and preservation, reconstruction and restoration, setting and vulnerability.

In the Appendices Kerr documents detail relating to several projects in which he was involved such as Goulburn Correctional Centre, Sydney Opera House and Sydney Observatory.

### ***Legacy***

In addition to *Conservation Plan* his final legacy was to catalogue both his and his wife's archives as an important record of Australian heritage and a period of creative innovation in heritage thinking.

*Patsy Moppett*

### ***References:***

*Conservation Plan*, James Semple Kerr 1982

Wikipedia

SMH 22 November 2014

## ***The Technical Side***

### ***Storm damage and repair***

Every year natural disasters such as storms, earthquakes and other extreme weather conditions cause extensive and costly damage to historic buildings and structures, landscapes and places of heritage significance. Too often the urgency to repair such



damage due to public health and safety leads to further loss of building materials, roofs and other architectural features through removal of material and replacement with inappropriate materials.

Conservation of heritage places under the Burra Charter is generally a process of caring for heritage properties through maintenance, preservation, restoration, reconstruction or adaptation. Although approaches can vary the overall aim is to protect the heritage values of the property.

The Burra Charter states that it is acceptable conservation methodology and reconstruction is appropriate “where a place is incomplete through damage or alteration and where it is necessary for its survival, or where it reveals the cultural significance of the place as a whole”.

When storm damaged materials are replaced with dissimilar materials, it can often decrease some of the physical heritage significance of a place. Reconstruction projects are encouraged to reproduce the materials that existed in the building or place.

Heritage professionals and experts will always encourage the retention of original fabric of a place and replacement with similar materials in order to complement and enhance the structure as a whole.

It is imperative during and after a storm to limit damage to interiors and to secure the building from loss of important architectural elements or features, with damaged elements being collected for repair or reuse.



*Earthquake damage*



*Christchurch Cathedral*

Although experts will call for repair of storm damage as quickly as possible following storm damage, this is not always possible. Interim protection and security measures are usually required to prevent further loss and/or damage, often whilst insurance claims are processed, Council applications made, funding sources, tradesman sought etc.



*Blacksmithing*



*Dry stone walling*

It is usually recommended to place the works into the hands of a professional, obtaining a written scope of works and schedule of conservation measures before taking on a

contract. A Conservation Management Plan may already exist under which emergency works can be carried out. Alternatively a new CMP may be required. Opportunities for recovery funding should be investigated.

General principles include:

- Wherever possible the original materials/elements should be retained, repaired and reused.
- Where new material is necessary, the replacement materials should match the original as close as possible.
- Replacement of traditional details should be of a typical or sympathetic form, suited to the original period of construction.
- Where entire replacement is required, an attempt should be made to retain samples of the original fabric within the structure of the place.
- Seek expert advice in the preparation of documentation and assessment.
- An integral part of the repair of traditional structures is the sourcing of traditional trades, techniques and skills.
- Repair should be carried out in a manner that does not detract from the cultural significance of the place.
- Ensure ongoing monitoring and maintenance after repair.
- Establish a list of emergency contacts.

*Patsy Moppett*

*References:*

*Guide to Storm Damage and the Philosophy of Repair 1997, National Trust of Australia*

## **Community events & updates**

### **State Heritage Register**

The Heritage Council of NSW has advertised its intention to consider whether to recommend the places below for listing on the State Heritage Register in acknowledgement of their heritage significance.

**Cox's Road (1814-15) and Early Deviations (1820s)**, including the following six separate precincts:

- Mount York, Cox's Pass Precinct, Mount York
- Sodwalls, Fish River Descent Precinct, Sodwalls
- Woodford, Old Bathurst Road Precinct, Woodford
- Linden Precinct, Linden
- Woodford with inappropriate, Appian Way Precinct, Woodford
- Clarence Hilly Range, Mount Blaxland Precinct, Hartley



*Mt York/Woodford/Mt Blaxland Precincts*

Written submissions on the abovementioned listing are invited from any interested person by 31 January 2015. Enquiries should be directed to Dr Siobhan Lavelle OAM, on (02) 9873 8546 or [siobhan.lavelle@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:siobhan.lavelle@environment.nsw.gov.au)

### **Paragon Café, Katoomba**

Written submissions on the abovementioned listing are invited from any interested person by 31 January 2015. Enquiries should be directed to Gary Escourt, on (02) 9873 6546 or [gary.escourt@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:gary.escourt@environment.nsw.gov.au)



Further details on the nominated places can be viewed at:

[www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/NominationsofStateHeritageRegister.aspx](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/NominationsofStateHeritageRegister.aspx)

Please direct submissions to: Heritage Council of NSW, Locked Bag 5020, PARRAMATTA NSW 2124 or [heritage@heritage.nsw.gov.au](mailto:heritage@heritage.nsw.gov.au)

### **Succession Planning**

Opportunities exist for organisations to find out the many ways to make their job easier and more effective and ensure their volunteers get the most out of their roles. So why does succession planning seem so hard? Why do we still fail to fill positions on committees and a handful of “old faithfuls” carry on the work of many.



On 13 May 2013 the Minister for Citizenship and Communities, The Hon. Victor Dominello MP, released a Statement of seven Principles for the Recognition of Volunteers.

Organisations that adopted the principles would be sending out a clear signal to current and potential volunteers that their contributions are valued. (see [www.volunteering.nsw.gov.au](http://www.volunteering.nsw.gov.au)). Statistics show that 95% of Australia's not for profit organisations are run by volunteers. The NSW Department of Environment and Community's web site provides much information in regard to working with corporations, supporting volunteers, running an organisation, and promoting an organisation.

BMACHO invites you to a **Succession Planning Workshop** on Saturday 21 February 2015 from 2pm to 4.30pm at the City of Greater Lithgow Mining Museum, State Mine Gully Road (off Atkinson Street), Lithgow.

The speakers will be:

- Emeritus Professor David Carment AM, Past President of the Royal Australian Historical Society, current RAHS Councillor and author.



- Ray Christison, President of the City of Greater Lithgow Mining Museum, Consultant in Cultural Heritage Management and author.

Both David and Ray will speak about their failures and successes and there will be question time after each speaker.

Other attendees include Lynn Collins, Museums and Galleries Advisor for Blue Mountains and Lithgow City Councils, and Tamara Lavrencic, a Museums & Galleries of NSW senior staff member.

Up to three (3) members are invited to attend from each society/organisation/museum.

Please RSVP, for catering purposes by 21 January 2015, to Jan Koperberg (02) 4751 5834 or by emailing [committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au](mailto:committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au) or [j.koperberg@bigpond.com](mailto:j.koperberg@bigpond.com)

### **RAHS, Western Crossings Committee**

Dr Anne-Maree Whitacker, Chair of the Western Crossings Committee of the Royal Australian Historical Society, made a presentation to their Committee on 24 November 2014 in regard to the completion of works by the Committee to date.



She advised that the Committee was established by the RAHS in 2010 at the suggestion of then President Dr R Ian Jack, to bring together everyone planning activities for 2013-2015 to mark the bicentenaries of Blaxland, Lawson & Wentworth's "first" crossing of the Blue Mountains, George Evans' survey of a western route, William Cox's western road and the founding of Bathurst.

The Committee was not set up to organize events or even to direct the activities of groups and councils. Its primary role was to facilitate networking and linkages and in this it was extremely successful.

"The exchange of information at Western Crossings meetings enabled groups to plan complementary rather than clashing activities. This RAHS role was publically acknowledged on many occasions including the bicentenary launch by the Governor at Echo Point in February 2013 and the civic event at Mount York in May 2013. The Bicentenary website home page is introduced by a message from the RAHS President –

[http://www.hyperhub.com.au/forto/Crossings\\_BiCentenary/](http://www.hyperhub.com.au/forto/Crossings_BiCentenary/) "

A grant of \$80,000 was achieved which the RAHS partly distributed to community events and partly committed to RAHS legacy projects.

"These RAHS legacy projects were:

- Button badges <http://www.rahs.org.au/western-crossings/community-initiatives/>  
14,000 badges distributed to schools in Blue Mountains and Emu Plains
- Frank Walker Western Crossings Website <http://www.rahs.org.au/western-crossings/>  
300 historic photos and six rare publications from RAHS library collection made readily available on the internet, establishing a precedent for further digitisation
- Monument Restoration <http://www.rahs.org.au/western-crossings/monuments/>  
Four historical monuments in Penrith and Blue Mountains LGAs (at South Creek, Glenbrook, Springwood and Blackheath) restored by qualified heritage stonemasons
- *History* magazine special edition <http://www.rahs.org.au/western-crossings/publications/>  
Reports on Bicentenary events and funded projects in full colour souvenir issue (including message from Premier)

The Western Crossings Committee built up a list of nearly 150 email contacts who were notified of both meetings and news between meetings.

The networking at Western Crossings meetings also benefited the RAHS when it came to organising the 2013 conference in Katoomba. Welcome to Country, conference satchels, the Friday welcome function, courtesy bus, raffle prizes, walking tours, grants presentation and much more were the outcome of the close linkages made with local groups, businesses and Blue Mountains MP Roza Sage. ”

“The 2013 Blue Mountains Lithgow and Oberon Tourism Awards included an Award of Excellence to the RAHS for its contribution to the Blue Mountains Crossing Bicentenary. Individual awards were also made to RAHS Councillors Emeritus Professor David Carment AM, Dr Anne-Maree Whitaker and Dr Siobhan Lavelle OAM.

The 2014 National Trust Heritage Awards recognised the RAHS Western Crossings Project, which had grown out of the Western Crossings Committee and been funded by the resulting Premier’s grant, as the winner of the Education and Interpretation, Community/Individual category. This was the first time the RAHS has won a National Trust Heritage Award which represents recognition of excellence in the heritage sector throughout New South Wales. The Western Crossings Committee has greatly enhanced the reputation of the RAHS in regional NSW and within the heritage sector for virtually no cost and no imposition on staff. Thanks are due to the voluntary work of councillors past and present for this extraordinary and highly commendable achievement.”

*Patsy Moppett*

*Adapted from a presentation to the RAHS Committee on 24 November 2014 by Dr Anne-Maree Whitaker*

### **National Trust Heritage Festival 2015**

The National Trust Heritage Festival will take place from 11 April to 26 May 2015, celebrating 35 years as the longest running community festival.



The theme for 2015 is “Conflict and Passion” – those having shaped who we are and helped a new multicultural nation evolve. From our indigenous history to the centenary of WW1, the 2015 National Trust Heritage Festival will explore the human side of war, rebellion, sacrifice and endurance, and the extraordinary stories of courage and compassion that come from the horror of conflict and strife.

It is free to register a heritage related event for the festival and this can be done on-line or by contacting the National Trust. The printed guide will be distributed to libraries, councils, tourist information centres, event participants and to all NT members. The Festival provides free publicity to encourage people to attend the events and to give greater exposure to participants. See [www.nationaltrust.org.au](http://www.nationaltrust.org.au)

Lithgow Local Studies are planning an event and are currently seeking speakers. Contact Kay Shirt at the Lithgow Library Learning Centre, Ph: 02 6352 9100.

### **Enlightened Lithgow**

In the year just past, the Council of the City of Lithgow wrote some six hundred heritage properties into the heritage listings in its Local Environment Plan. This volume of listings provides a measure of the extraordinary early European and Aboriginal heritage evident in close proximity to this city of some ten thousand people that is located less than two hours drive from Sydney.

Many would recall Lithgow as it's old self, a mining and manufacturing city famous for producing Australia's first iron and steel (much of the Sydney harbour bridge is made of Lithgow steel) Lithgow pottery, heaps of coal . Today it's a far cry from those days, whilst still heavily reliant on mining in the immediate area, the town is now a regular winner of Tidy Town awards, the air is 'Blue Mountains pure' and the town is progressively seeing its future as a tourist mecca. One element of its tourism potential is its wealth of early European heritage properties. Unlike Sydney, where subsequent development saw the destruction of much of the old, the inns and rural houses that were built in Lithgow and the Hartley Valley immediately to its south saw no destructive development and survive to this day. The most notable early buildings in the area are Moyne Farm 1822, Collits Inn 1823 and Coerwull House built by Andrew Brown on his 1824 grant of land in the Lithgow Valley.



*Moyne*



*Collits Inn*

These buildings are the first, second and third oldest buildings built west of the mountains. In addition, the area boasts some of the best remnant elements of Cox's 1814 road through the Hartley Valley and a wealth of road works culverts, bridge work and a viaduct dating from Mitchell's 1832 upgrade of the Bathurst Road. It also has remnants of three convict stockades, several graveyards tucked away in isolated settings with headstones dating back to the 1830s, the boundary markers of some of the earliest land grants west of the mountains and a host of buildings dating from 1831 that served as inns servicing travellers on Mitchell's Bathurst Road. On top of all this wealth of pre 1850 heritage there is a potpourri of industrial and agricultural built heritage that ranges from Victorian farm buildings to abandoned early mining and industrial machinery.

Whilst Moyne farm and its private graveyard are not accessible to the public, Collits Inn in Hartley Vale is again open to the public, being operated as a restaurant. Coerwull House, still home to the descendants of its builder, is to be open to the public this year for one day during the 2015 National Trust Heritage Festival.



*Graves at Moyne*



*Coerwull House c.1880*



This jewel in the Lithgow heritage treasury is a most remarkable series of sandstone buildings, the erection of which commenced in 1824. The builder Andrew Brown, a Scottish immigrant, settled in the Lithgow valley on a grant of 200 acres that today is part of West Lithgow. His original simple cottage, built in the 1820's, remains as the western rooms of Coerwull House, the home of impressive proportions he created with an extension he undertook in the 1830's. Following completion of the house Brown went on to build six other stone buildings to complete the cluster of pre 1850 buildings that we see today. A separate kitchen building, a barn, stables, shearing shed, equipment storage shed, all of a consistent architectural style, creates a stunning building cluster. The remains of a garden bathhouse, fed by a continuous flow of water channelled from nearby Farmers Creek and a Victorian heated glasshouse add further interest to the site. The buildings' original shingles, over-laid with corrugated iron more than a century ago, the tight square cut flagging of courtyards and items of Victorian farm equipment stored in the sheds are just added detail that make access to this set of extraordinary buildings an inspiring heritage experience.

For those interested in joining the Lithgow branch of the National Trust for an opportunity to inspect these buildings and to hear commentary by Dr Ian Jack, who has a deep knowledge of Brown and his accomplishments, call 1300 760 276 to book your attendance. The open day will be held on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April commencing at 10 am.

*Ramsay Moodie, Honorary Treasurer, National Trust Lithgow Branch*

### **Former Station Master's Residence, Lawson**

An update with regard to this premises – it has been painted!!! BMACHO Secretary, Jan Koperberg, reports that further works have been carried out on this building. The building was painted with a grey undercoat and then the finishing colour of a red/orange colour. The lean-to on the side has been repaired, the windows have been boarded up and there is a concrete path at the back of the building (facing Loftus Street). A security guard mans the premises, and was very interested in Jan's information on the history of the building when she took the following photos. He found it hard to believe the building was built in 1896! There are a number of groups interested in using the building as their home base and the railway authority will be advised of these.



*Lawson residence November 29, 2014*

Further advice now received says that the cottage has been integrated into the Lawson Depot complex as part of its future operations; the cottage cannot be opened up to the general public as it is not currently habitable together with the operational nature of the Depot. The cottage has, however, had an external makeover (painting, roof tiling) to make the structure safe, and a general makeover.

Sydney Trains will be carrying out an assessment to determine the building condition. It is anticipated that a contractor will be engaged for this purpose for Lawson (and other locations) during February 2015, to be completed by mid to late 2015.

Whether or not the building could be used for adaptive re-use will depend upon what further works are required, together with the costs of those works and any restrictions from heritage and Depot activities.

*Jan Koperberg*

### ***NSW, History Week 2015***

History Week will be celebrated this year from 5-13 September, with a theme of “*War, Nationalism and Identity*”.

History Week was initiated by the History Council of NSW in 1997 to showcase the rich, diverse history being produced by organisations and individuals across the state. With over 100 events across NSW History Week is about celebrating the best in community and professional history, highlighting its role in our cultural life and inviting people to get involved.



The History Council advises that it is often argued that the Australian was born of war, on the slopes of Gallipoli to be precise. But historians have also argued that the cost of the war was so great that the country was left internally divided, a generation of men was lost on the battlefields of the Western Front and the economy was left shattered. By 1919 Australia was a broken nation.

The Second World War was then seen as a nation building exercise, especially in the dark days of late 1941, early 1942, when invasion seemed imminent and political leaders argued that Australia's capacity for resistance would be a measure of the strength of nationhood. But World War II proved less costly both in economic and human terms, and this time the country was not left divided by sectarian or political issues. In 1945 Australia was better prepared for growth and prosperity than at any time in its history.

How then does war shape ideas of nation and history? Is baptism on the battlefield a prerequisite of nationhood and a sense of national identity? What are the roles of ideas and political movements in creating and shaping nation states? In 2015 the theme of History Week will focus on the history of nation building, nationalism and national identity as the products of both peaceful and violent processes, focusing on generals and politicians, constitution makers and revolutionaries.

It should be noted that in order to host events under the History Week banner your organisation must be a member of the History Council of NSW. For further information contact [www.historycouncilnsw.org.au](http://www.historycouncilnsw.org.au)

### ***Engineering Feat, Katoomba – the Bleichert Ropeway***

In 1885 an aerial ropeway was constructed to transport mined oil shale across the Jamison Valley. It collapsed after only six months.

Earlier this year the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute, UNSW, Scenic World, NPWS and experienced bushwalkers conducted a field survey of the ropeway's remaining heritage items in the valley.



The Institute invite you to attend Scenic World, 1 Violet Street, Katoomba on Thursday 12 February 2015 from 5-7pm, to learn about this fascinating and hidden history of Katoomba. They now have a complete and accurate record of what remains from the ropeway, and have produced a report highlighting its cultural significance and recommendations for its conservation. They have also produced a computer simulation of the ropeway to illustrate its operation and how it failed.

Register by contacting Annabel Murray at [a.murray@bmwhi.org.au](mailto:a.murray@bmwhi.org.au) RSVP by 2 February 2015.

### ***Book Review: This Tortuous Ridge – Linden to Lawson***

This book takes us on a journey through a cluster of five villages along the Blue Mountains ridge. The villages are close neighbours, running one into the other almost continuously, but separated from other settlements to the east and west by uninhabited bushland. Locals know it as the Central Blue Mountains, between the Upper and Lower regions.

Skillfully edited by Eugene Stockton, the book was launched by the Blue Mountain Education and Research Trust in November 2014, introduced by Grace Karskens, author of *The Colony – A History of Early Sydney*.

The book tells us that the earliest visitor to the region was William Dawes in 1789 when he reached the Lawson ridge, and gives an overview of the geological formations across the Blue Mountains, showing a much weathered landscape.

Gil Jones then takes us through the topography examining bedrock, the dissected sandstone plateau that stretches north from the Great Western Highway, and places where the rock profile can be readily seen.

Chris Whiteman then hones in on the flora of the Central Blue Mountains, highlighting detail that for early travellers may have gone unnoticed. The area contains many rare and endangered plant species, although botanists have been recording these since early settlement. He examines the various ecological communities including heath, cliff face, swamp and lagoon, woodland and communities, open forest, rainforest, riparian and urban, illustrating them with a number of clear and colourful photographs.

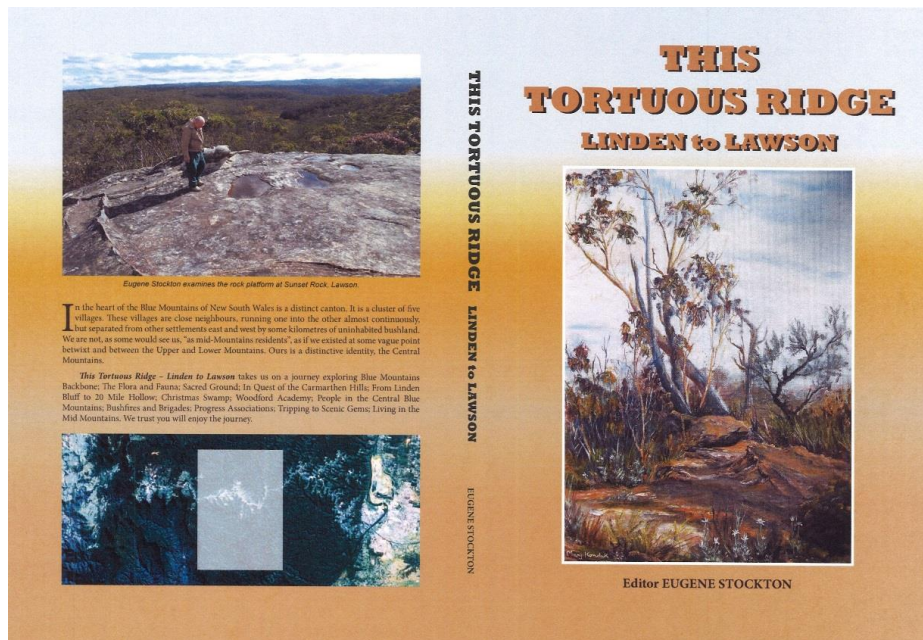
Chris goes on to discover the fauna of the area and those most common in each of the same ecological communities. Once again the section is clearly illustrated with a variety of birds and other creatures, and concludes with advice for maintaining a wildlife friendly backyard.

Eugene Stockton then elaborates on the Aboriginal domain, and presents evidence of Aboriginal occupation of the area through rock engravings and stone arrangements.

John Low takes us along with William Dawes and that journey in 1789, when he ventured west of the Nepean River only to be stopped in the vicinity of the Lawson ridge. From Dawes own map compiled in 1891 and other sources, Low gives an account of Dawes' experience, the conditions and landscape features that they experienced, those who travelled with him, and the early routes explored at the time.

John Merriman then takes us along the early western road through the Central area as it was from Cox's construction in 1814 to today in 2014. This explores the significant Woodford and Linden sections of the road where features of construction can still be seen. He covers the works deviations by Mitchell and Bull, looking at Caley's Repulse, convict retaining walls at Woodford, and the various changes in the construction and route of the highway as we see it today.





Eugene Stockton leads us back to ground zero with a walk through Christmas Swamp! This was one of several hanging swamps in the vicinity of Lawson, and Eugene details a number of inns and buildings in the vicinity and where the swamp was mentioned in literature over time.

Elizabeth Burgess and Ken Goodlet describe the history of Woodford Academy and its location along the 1830s road, and through to its significance and use today.

Ken Goodlet then gives us an overview of some of the people of the Central Blue Mountains. He commences with the Aboriginal custodians and the first colonial settlers, and then the tourists of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and through to the growth of commuter travel and population growth. He looks at the cultural buildings and homes, memorials, churches and meeting places, and heritage streetscapes and landscapes.

Ken Goodlet goes on to examine the brigades and bushfires of the area, and the fire threat that is a constant for residents of the Central and indeed the wider Blue Mountains. Ken also looks at the various community associations and progress associations along the way who have been so active in achieving recognition for heritage places and people such as the Hazelbrook murals and the naming of the highway bridges.

Julie Stockton treats us to an account of the "scenic gems" to be found in the Central Blue Mountains, such as water falls and walks in the mountain air, and the way that early settlers appreciated the landscape in pools and rainforest trails and other visitor attractions designed for a healthy lifestyle.

Jim Tulip sums up our experiences with a look at living in the Mid Mountains today, and the various experiences of memory and cultural appreciation available to residents.

A list of local amenities is included at the end of the text including bushwalks, churches, community groups, libraries, schools, parks and sporting clubs.

The book presents a very thorough and complete review of the locality, in "living colour", varying from overviews to details of every aspect imaginable. The contributors have painted a picture of a place that is environmentally and culturally special to those who reside there and a place which can provide some very special experiences to both travellers and visitors.

*Patsy Moppett*

Some glowing comments on the publication have been offered by others as follows:

"The Central Blue Mountains can be our point of reference, but the fabric of which it is a part is as rich and intricate as our curiosity and imagination dare to unravel". *Gil Jones*

“The achievement of a modern stylish and well landscaped four lane highway (The Great Western Highway) is a triumph. It is an event of Australian significance and importance. The road itself tells a story worth the telling”.

*Jim Tulip*

“Nevertheless, the fact that there have not been and are unlikely to be large towns in the Central Mountains and they are pockets of settlement linked along a narrow ridge means that a discrete sense of identity exists in each town, even in the case of Hazelbrook and Woodford, which have shared so many similar features and facilities and have always been a continuum on the narrow ridge”.

*Ken Goodlet*

The title of this handsome, multi-authored (10 of them), book is attractive but is it accurate? The Editor himself wrote in the Introduction “In the heart of the Blue Mountains of New South Wales is a distinct canton. It is a cluster of five villages.” So that means Bullaburra - Lawson - Hazelbrook - Woodford - Linden hence the title should have been Linden to Bullaburra. Dare one suggest that this might have been intentional so as to promote the ‘home’ village of Lawson? Poor Bullaburra missed out again by being omitted from the collection of photographs of village signs, and indeed it seems to have been disregarded by most of the authors!

Whether this section of the mountains be called the Central Blue Mountains or more commonly the “Mid Blue Mountains” or its contraction the “Mid Mountains” was raised at the launch of this book on 30 November 2014 with the show of hands favouring the use of ‘Central’ - as does the editor. But there is a considerable amount of published material, and formal names of organisations to overcome to get that nomenclature change accepted. The publication brings together summaries of previously published material and that these accounts are informative and clear.

Chris Whiteman contributed on the flora and fauna of the area, respectively. His account of the flora gives information that is well presented and his use of the commonly adopted Specht system of plant communities is clear and informative for the non-specialist. The many photographs will be welcomed by newcomers to the area but what a pity that there are so few photographs of the rare plants that are mentioned, and that the colour rendition of both *Grevillea sericea* and the ‘Lawson Giant’ is rather too mauve. Help from a botanist with proof reading would have been beneficial as there are several spelling and botanical nomenclature errors and the photograph labelled *Isopogon anethifolius* is actually of *Isopogon anemoniaefolius*. The inclusion of the historical development of exotic plant gardens is interesting and completes this general account of the flora of the area. An abbreviated account of his renowned archaeological history of the area has been written by Eugene Stockton, with Kelvin Knox as co-author, and in Chapter 7 Fr Stockton contributes a concise explanation of the swamp that led to the existence of Lawson. John Low has supplied background information on the 1789 Dawes expedition (Chapter 5) which is a most welcome addition to the literature on the Blue Mountains. Also pleasing to find is the comprehensive description of the road, its method of construction and the condition of its surface as felt by travellers that has been written by John Merriman (Chapter 6) and as a bonus he dispels the myths surrounding features at Bulls Camp. I did feel the need of a map to assist the reader to comprehend the locations of the several road realignments that have been made over the years.

About a quarter of this book is the work of Ken Goodlet who contributed Chapters 9 (People & Buildings), 10 (Bushfires & Brigades), 11 (Progress Associations) and co-authored Chapter 8 (Woodford Academy). That significant contribution is hardly surprising for his own extensive book on part of the area was published not so long ago ( *Hazelbrook and Woodford. A story of two Blue Mountains towns* 2006). Ken manages to make a compelling read out of the data in the rather ‘dry’ census publications which has resulted in an informative overview of the development of each of the five villages; and yes Bullaburra does feature!

This new book abounds with excellent photographs but I do regret that the waterfalls on pp.32 & 38 are not identified although the latter seems to me to be Terrace Falls. The maps on pp.6, 9 & 17 are uncluttered and clear so surely the cartographer(s) should have been acknowledged? In a similar vein the majority of the many historic photographs are presented without stating where they might be found; although they will be out of copyright, and the collections are credited, it is preferable that this information be more immediate and clear as has been done elsewhere in the book. On p.117 it is stated that the illustration on p.64 is from "Mary Martindale's sketchbook" without the location of that obscure item being indicated yet it was expressly given by John Low not long ago in another publication (*The Martindale Family and the Sketchbook of Mary Elizabeth Martindale*, Blue Mountains Journal 2). The purpose of most illustrations is either stated or is obvious but the photograph on p.51 has neither a date nor a location - a nice image nonetheless!

Modern photographs of village buildings etc. are scattered through the book and are going to become historic snapshots of Lawson, Hazelbrook, Woodford and to a limited extent Linden. But Bullaburra missed out again!

In summary, this is a neat and well presented book that is a credit to the publishers. It has content that will be appreciated by the general public to whom it can be thoroughly recommended. Congratulations Eugene on producing another informative book and how appropriate that it was launched on your 80th birthday!!"

*Adapted from comments by Peter C. Rickwood, Blue Mountains Historical Society Inc. & UNSW.*

*This Tortuous Ridge – Linden to Lawson* is available from Blue Mountain Education and Research Trust @ \$35.00 per copy plus postage. Orders to Allan Walsh  
[allan.walsh@exemail.com](mailto:allan.walsh@exemail.com)

### ***BMACHO Heritage Trail - Natural Disaster Recovery Grant***

BMACHO has succeeded in obtaining funding for the proposed Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail project, thanks to the initiative of Secretary, Jan Koperberg!

BMACHO was one of the successful applicants for the Westpac Group Natural Disaster Recovery Grants. The grants were announced on 11 December 2014, to help fund 12 community projects, providing support and financial assistance to the Blue Mountains region. Recipients will use their funding to launch or expand programs designed to facilitate the social, economic and community recovery of disaster affected areas in the Blue Mountains. Westpac advises that recovery from a natural disaster (last summer's bushfires) takes a long time and they are proud to be able to fund the projects which they know are important to the Blue Mountains community.



Recipients include the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, Catholic Care Social Services, Mt Victoria Public School P & C Association, Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre,



Springwood Neighbourhood Centre Cooperative LTD and the Holy Monastery of St George, to name a few.

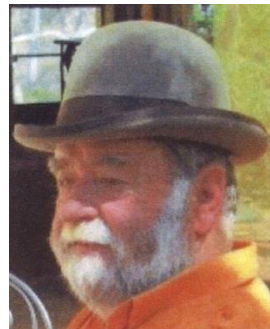
BMACHO's grant of \$9,000.00 will be used to help develop a brochure and website for the Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail, to promote the historical societies, cultural heritage organisations, museums, historic gardens and historic businesses in the Blue Mountains. Work on the project is well underway, but BMACHO cannot announce a launch date just yet due to membership losses on the Committee.

*Jan Koperberg*

### ***Richard James Woolley***

The BMACHO membership sincerely regrets the passing of Committee Member Richard James Woolley, who passed away on 21 November 2014. Richard was the initiator of the proposed Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail and his enthusiasm for the project will be sorely missed.

The Committee's thoughts and prayers are with his family.



## BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

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**Website:** [www.bluemountainsheritage.com.au](http://www.bluemountainsheritage.com.au) **ABN:** 53 994 839 952

**The organisation:** Blue Mountains Association of Cultural & Heritage 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:

1. To raise public consciousness of the value of cultural heritage
2. To encourage and assist cultural heritage
3. 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, Mt Tomah; Blue Mountains City Library; Blue Mountains Cultural Heritage Centre; Blue Mountain Education & Research Trust; Blue Mountains Historical 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; Hawesbury Historical Society Inc; Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society Inc; Lithgow & District Family History Society Inc; Lithgow Mining Museum Inc; Lithgow Regional Library – Local Studies; Lithgow Small Arms factory Museum Inc; Mt Victoria & District Historical Society Inc; Mt Wilson & 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 Communication Museum Inc; The Darnell Collection P/L; 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 2014-2015 (from July 2014) is: Ian Jack (vice president & acting president), Jan Koperberg (secretary/acting treasurer), Roy Bennett, Wendy Hawkes and Scott Pollock (web site), Patsy Moppett (*Heritage* Newsletter editor), Dick Morony (public officer) and Suzanne Smith.

**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.