Some History of Bullaburra

Bullaburra was the last town to be developed in the Blue Mountains, linked to the establishment of the railway. It is located some 97km from Sydney, between Lawson and Wentworth Falls. It began as a tiny settlement consisting of only a few streets on the southern side of the rail line.

Minnatonka Falls

Although the single rail track through Bullaburra was opened in 1867, the station itself did not open at the site until 1924, when the station proper was built to service the land subdivision occurring at that time. Prior to this there was no formal stopping place for the railway at Bullaburra. It is a unique station site as it was financed by a real estate firm. Sydney property developer Arthur Rickard & Co developed a local land subdivision in the vicinity and financed NSWGR to erect a brick shelter shed with awnings, to enhance land values. The Department of Railways did not actually take ownership until 1947. The Dept of Main Roads had its own rail siding, with an associated office building. This building was destroyed in the 1977 bushfires.

The town is 769m above sea level. Much of the land was first owned by Sir Henry Parkes who called it the village of Coleridge after a place in England. Arthur Rickard, land developer and auctioneer, developed a large residential subdivision of the area on three portions

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owned by Parkes and applied the Aboriginal name Bullaburra, which was thought to mean "blue sky" or 'fine weather".

Railway platform

Existing railway footbridge

However, opinions vary as to the meaning of the name. It has been translated from the Aboriginal for "twin peaks" or the alternative "blue/clear skies". The twin peaks would refer to Mt Hay and Mt Banks which can be seen from the town. The word is still sounded as it originally would have been, as if from a didgeridoo. Aboriginal relics dating back to 12,000-5,000BC have been found on Kings Tableland so Bullaburra could well be one of the oldest names in Australia still retaining its original sound. The station itself was originally known as "Blue Skies".

The main railway buildings were under construction from 1924 through to 1957, being officially opened on 16th February 1925. At first it was unmanned, and the first attendant was not appointed until 1964 to sell tickets only. In travelling from Penrith in the 1950s one had to consult with the station master at Lawson on the way through, letting them know that the train had to stop at Bullaburra for you. To be collected, one had to flag the train down during the day, or light the station lamp at night to signal the driver. It remained unattended until the 1980s, and is still unmanned.

The station has an island platform accessed from an overhead steel platform, and contains a ticket machine shelter, a modern steel shelter, a 1924 brick waiting shed and the main 1957 brick station building. The buildings do not follow the standard railway building designs used in NSW during the period. A steel footbridge was constructed in 1924 giving access to railway Parade and the highway.

In-ground reservoir

Early Bullaburra residence

The railway having first opened to Wentworth Falls in 1867, was extended to Mt Victoria in 1868. Water supply was critical to steam power and a large earth dam had been built at Lawson. Due to its lack of capacity a further dam was built at Wentworth Falls in 1906. A large octagonal concrete in-ground reservoir (a break pressure tank), part of the supply system between the dams, was built in 1906 at the base of Boddington Hill at Bullaburra.

We are indebted to Una King and Adrian Paul for their thoughts and memories of Bullaburra, Una having arrived there in 1981, and Adrian having holidayed there in the early 1950s. Una tells us that when access through the mountains was still via coach or horseback, a stopping place was established in the 1830s opposite where the current railway station stands. When the railway came though Sir Henry Parkes purchased the property and built a residence there, 'Buena Vista". Parts of the building remain behind a residence in Kalinda Road. The housing area here was gazetted as the "Buena Vista" estate.

The government map of 1879 was the first of the area, which showed the land to the north of the rail line as owned by Joseph Hay. To the south most land belonged to Henry Parkes. West of Genevieve Road belonged to John Graham.

Joseph Hay lived in Hay (formerly Berg) Street, buying land to the north and south of the rail line. His property was called "Lanassa Park".

Arthur Rickard's real estate agency advertised the land as the Lanassa Park Estate. The blocks had a 100 ft frontage and no water or sewer. A shopping centre was to be associated with the estate along with smaller blocks and a car park. None of these other features ever eventuated.

The first industry in the area was timber, cedar and hardwood. Bullaburra cedar was highly sought after. There were also rural industries such as piggeries and poultry farms.

Heather Mollenhauer lists Hay as having a property of 300 acres further along at Lawson that he named San Jose Estate, which was from the current San Jose Avenue right up to Bullaburra. Joseph's wife Mary Anne also had property, 101 acres along Honour Avenue at Lawson, called the Santa Cruz Estate.

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There was a store on the main road opposite the railway station, and a roadhouse at the corner of Genevieve Road. The roadhouse was used as tea rooms from the 1930s until 1971, where a private residence now stands.

The former general store on the corner of Cooranga Street and the highway was first occupied by a Mr. Fletcher, a WW1 veteran, who died soon after taking possession. It was then owned by Mr. Wigan from 1929. Even though there was a DMR camp for workers opposite Genevieve Road in Eungella Park, the store never paid very well.

In 1939 the store was taken over by Margery Anderson, who was a community leader and Councillor. Anderson Street is named for her. Subsequent owners were Rodders and Swinbourne amongst others. The store was always the centre of the community, being the post office, grocer, newsagent, greengrocer, and general goods store. Being open from 6am to 8pm every day, one could leave a shopping list, and have the goods delivered, as was often the way in those days. This general use ceased in the 1970s, and it became a takeaway shop with a few groceries. That closed in the early 1980s. Since then it has had a number of uses including crafts, antiques, furniture, second hand goods and Porters Paints. Currently it stands vacant once again, probably due to the impact of the current highway upgrading road works.

The general store then and now

A service station was built in 1950 on the corner of Boronia Road by Arthur Denning of Lawson. The first proprietor was Ken Perkins. It sold many different brands of fuel over the years, and at one stage an unexploded WW2 cannon shell was found on site. During the 1980s it was known as the Grumbling Tum, but was closed down for a time by local health inspectors, before it then reopened. Plans to utilise it as a convenience store and car wash never eventuated. The service station was demolished in 2008. It is currently a works site for the highway roadworks contractors.

At the edge of the village area on the western side of the highway an almost bare site is located, which contains a stone rotunda which originally supported a water tank. This was the site of Cadia Park, the home of Charles Hoskins, owner of the Lithgow Steel Mill, and is marked by a boundary brick fence and mature conifers. It was originally called "Zermatt", but about 1918 it was renamed for the source of Lithgow's iron ore at Cadia. Hoskins had moved to Bullaburra for the sake of the health of his daughter Nellie.

The property was originally a grant to James Grieson Wilson, who built a residence on the land called Myrtlebank. When Hoskins purchased 5 acres of the property in 1913 the house was not on this portion. Myrtlebank actually burnt down in 1923. Hoskins built a residence in 1914 although Nellie died the same year. The facilities provided for Nellie included a zoo, well-kept gardens, a large brick well and an oval swimming pool. The private zoo was located between the road and the railway on a leased reserve. Hoskins purchased another 36 acres to the south.

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Main highway entrance to Cadia Park

Front fence

The Hoskins family sold the property in 1921, after the steelworks moved to Port Kembla, and moved to Elizabeth Bay in 1922. The property was sold to E & E Davies, and then to Sir Arthur Rickard in 1923. However, Rickard's easy terms landed him in financial difficulties and in 1927 the property was sold to Henry Swain.

The rotunda

In 1930 the Benedictine Order bought the property from Swain and operated it as a monastery. A small cemetery was dedicated at the rear and three members of the Order were buried there, although the cemetery is no longer apparent. In 1949 the property passed to the Sisters of Saint Joseph who ran it as a holiday rest home for the Sisters of the Order. They built a further two cottages (for the chaplain and for the handyman), and the steam laundry. The tall pine trees made the place look dark and foreboding. The bells could be heard when they tolled for prayers, and the nuns worked in vegetable gardens at the rear. The fires of 1977 destroyed the original residence. Sisters from Vietnam were staying there at the time. A convent belonging to various Christian Orders (including Brothers of the Holy Family) remained in the building next door. In 2006 a family lived there and set it up as a ministry called the Father's House. Cadia proper remained in an increasingly derelict condition. Only the rotunda, the 1950s brick steam laundry and some garden remnants and garden edges remain.

Former steam laundry

Garden remnants

A Progress Association was formed in 1942, one of the founders being Margery Anderson, so the meetings were held at the store. One of their principle aims was to establish a vehicular crossing over the rail line to join north and south Bullaburra. Even today only a pedestrian crossing onto the station platform is all that has eventuated. The quest for a pedestrian crossing over the highway began in 1961. As usual it took a fatality to have it carried out, and lights were eventually installed as well. A footway is currently nearing completion over the highway.

The group obtained the land on the corner of Noble Street and the highway in 1949 and constructed a hall using Navy sheds from the depot at Kingswood. Meetings were carefully minuted and the building well managed, being used mostly by the group or its members, or as a polling place, and later the local lapidary club. The activities included games nights and dances. The Ladies Auxiliary met regularly and held bingo nights, and organized street stalls, bus trips and bushwalks for fundraising. Through grants and insurance on vandalism the building has been well maintained. At one time it had a heritage listing.

The community had a wish to establish an Anglican church on the hall site. Home services were being held at the time. By 1928 money had been raised but this was given over to Lawson and even home services ceased in 1939.

Rural fire service

Village hall

At the end of WW2 Arthur Rickard offered the land on the corner of Noble Street to provide a church, which was to be erected within 2 years. Nothing eventuated so Mr. Pressley suggested that a Uniting Church be built behind the store for the use of all denominations. This was built in the early 1950s and the Progress Association's 25th anniversary was celebrated there in 1967. It became a private residence in the 1970s.

The Bullaburra Volunteer Bushfire Brigade was formed in 1955 with 25 members. The first captain was Harry Baker. The first shed was built behind the store so meetings were held at the store. Stan Lattye provided the first tanker, and the Ladies Auxiliary undertook fundraising for equipment. A brick shed was then built at the corner of Kalinda Road in 1955-57. The present shed was built in 1977 on land donated to the brigade.

Nowadays Bullaburra is a quiet residential suburb of the mountains, with an unstaffed railway station, a railway siding, numerous parks including the Village Green, and a number of home businesses.

Bushfires swept through the area from time to time. In December 1977 the fires destroyed many homes and other buildings. This included the "lookshed" on the corner of Cooranga Street and Kalinda Road. The view from this point was said to cover from the sandhills of Kurnell to Mittagong. The amenities in Red Gum Park were also destroyed.

Natural places include Red Gum Park, Sir Henry Parkes Park, the Village Green, Minnatonka Falls, Claire's Glen and Walkers Glen, and the nearby Blue Mountains National Park.

There used to be a pool in Redgum Park (formerly Bullaburra Park from 1925 to 1964) across Bedford Creek in the 1950s. However pollution from nearby piggeries, poultry farms and septic tanks caused it to be filled in. The park was set aside as a reserve for recreation in the original Village of Coleridge on 13 May 1879, and became a park in 1925 within the Bullaburra Estate.

Eungella Park used to have fencing, play equipment, and seats, which were removed in the 1980s. The tennis courts were replaced with a car park and the tennis shed removed to a park in Lawson.

Sir Henry Parkes Park is a memorial to the great man. A pine grove in the park was donated to the community by Mr. Swain, Forestry Commissioner in South Australia, NSW and Qld, who had retired to Bullaburra.

The Bullaburra Village Green was the result of lobbying by residents for land for community needs in 2003.

Village Green

An entrance to Red Gum Park

The removal of many of these community facilities has also removed much of the locality's history.

Walkers Glen can be accessed off Essex Street, north of the rail line, and comprises thick dry wetland vegetation, acacia and melaluca, in a small area at the valley bottom.

Claires Glen is accessed off the Kent Street track.

A walking track was constructed through the area in 1937. NSWGR agreed to provide an electrical supply to the Blue Mountains Shire Council from the Lithgow power station and a transmission line was constructed from Blackheath to Lawson with a maintenance track. This track was promoted as a walking trail and a pamphlet produced. The surveyor was Albert Bruce, and the walk became known as Bruce Walk, along the north side of Bullaburra. After WWII the track was forgotten and subsequently the route broken up by Greaves Creek dam in 1942.

In 1980 a bushwalker Dick Rushton found the pamphlet and set about clearing the track. From Wentworth Falls to Bullaburra. He wrote a guide to this section 1983. Other walkers became interested in the track and it was again cleared in 1986 by Jim Smith and Wilf Hilder. They found many artefacts and features, including signs, shelter caves, seats and

picnic tables. The track was officially reopened from Wentworth Falls to Bullaburra in 1986, and other sections to Medlow Bath were cleared the same year. Today the track is still little known and used and does not appear on the topographic map for the area.
Notable properties include:

- Rhodda Valley.
- The former George Haining Coach House and Glencairn, 7-9 Kalinda Street: an original brick cottage with a detached kitchen and coach house, built by George Haining on land purchased from Henry Parkes, on land developed by Arthur Rickard as the Bullaburra Estate. The cottage was later sold off separately. The kitchen wing was developed as a separate cottage. The weatherboard coach house was replaced by a garage.

New highway footbridge under construction

Water reservoir

Bullaburra was first gazetted as a suburb of the Blue Mountains City Council area on 9 January 2004. The 2006 census suggests the population was some 1,236 people.

Bullaburra Railway Station Group, NSW Environment & Heritage
Bullaburra Past & Present, Una King 2001
Memories of Bullaburra, Adrien Paul
Blue Mountains Geographical Dictionary, Brian Fox 2006
A Historical Tour of Lawson, Heather Mollenhauer 2006.
www.midmountainshistory.org
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Food for thought .... Editor's note

So what about Bullaburra!
In listening to others and after much reading about the Blue Mountains in various resources and publications I felt a sense of tenable history at Bullaburra, a sense of significant things having gone before, coveted things that were hidden and sometimes lost.
In mingling with the community through historical societies, conferences and other events I saw through others eyes a very special corner of the world. A fierce pride in their heritage and history and sense of place illustrated strongly to me that there was a fascinating story to be told.
In my reading of copious references over the years in regard to the Blue Mountains, Bullaburra has often been mentioned but only in passing. All along the mountains numerous small settlements and groups of houses, inns and stores have come and gone since the first colonial settlements, through the heady days when the goldfields were in full swing, right through until today. Bullaburra falls to the east of and below Wentworth Falls and to the immediate west of Lawson.

Track into Red Gum Park

As a historian and writer, and through my many years in local government in a planning & heritage role, I have developed an interest in the history of the mountain areas, and have always felt a need to document the information I come across, where others have not, especially in regard to heritage and history in isolated areas or areas where few tangible features remain of what and who went before.
Bullaburra caught my imagination. Bullaburra has always interested me in that there is little there, but there is evidence of what was, not all of it obvious upon driving through. Many visitors do not even realize that there was ever a village there. Although Bullaburra is given passing mentions in a few local historical works, the particular locality has never been dealt with comprehensively.
I commenced some research into the history of the place and straight away came to realize that there was more there than I first realized. Further reading suggested that Bullaburra was an area which needed exploration, and that its boundaries were not easily defined. Many

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residents spend short periods there in a variety of capacities, but usually moved on to settle in the larger centres of Lawson, Katoomba and beyond.

So recently I took to my bike and spent some time cycling around the village area. The few lines I have penned in this Newsletter are the tip of the iceberg. My hope is that I spark an interest in order that someone will take on the challenge and bring Bullaburra back to life in a written work, bringing together all the various features of a history, to complement the thoughts and memories that have been previously documented by former residents and others.

"Burrundulla" Inn, Mudgee

Many will recall seeing this abandoned building a few kilometres southeast of the Mudgee township, on the corner of Spring Flat Road and the Castlereagh Highway.

The building is the former "Burrundulla" Inn. The current building is the second inn on the site, built by the Murray family during their long association with Mudgee as licencees. However an inn was present on the site as early as the 1860's, on what would have been part of George Cox's extensive property of ""Burrundulla"". The earlier building is said to have burnt down. The current building appears to be dated about the late 19th or early 20th century.

The Cox family is one of considerable historical importance in both Mulgoa and Mudgee for they pioneered both districts and contributed to their development.

William Cox (of Cox's Road fame) and his wife Rebecca arrived in Sydney in 1800, accompanied by their sons James, Charles, George and Henry. After a short stay at Pennant Hills the family settled at Windsor. George and Henry then took up land grants at Mudgee. George's "Burrundulla" was eventually inherited and managed by his son George Henry Cox from 1845.

William Cox　　　*George Cox*　　　　*George Henry Cox*

George Henry Cox married his cousin Henrietta Jane, daughter of Henry Cox in 1853. They had five sons and seven daughters. George Henry was well respected in the wool industry and is credited in building the fine, dense and elastic qualities for Mudgee wool, winning many awards in Australia and overseas. For many years he was councilor on the Agricultural Society of NSW and president of the Sheepbreeders' Association.

He conducted a model public school at "Burrundulla" for his tenants, and his consistent principles were free trade and the abolition of state aid to religion and Church schools, proclaiming the befits of public education.

In 1864 he completed a substantial Georgian style two-storey house on "Burrundulla", designed by architect William Weaver, , which replaced the old homestead, which was probably either burnt out or flooded. It is still owned and occupied by his descendants. The ""Burrundulla"" homestead was a large, two storey brick building with a main staircase lit by stained glass window bearing the Cox crest and monogram. Its living rooms were once adorned with prints of Italian renaissance masters collected in Europe and paintings by Conrad Martens. George Henry Cox died at "Burrundulla" on November 28, 1901.

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"Burrundulla" 1900

In 1993 grapes were first planted for wine making, and today an extensive vineyard exists on the land. Although the land area is much reduced from the original grant, "Burrundulla" is one of the nation's oldest pastoral properties. A new cellar door opened on the property in 2005.

Although the house was renovated in 1970, part of the ceiling collapsed in 2003 and had to be completely removed and replaced. An old boot was found above the fireplace, almost at the junction of the ceiling. There was a superstition that when the homestead was built that a boot placed in a wall, particularly a chimney wall, would keep out evil spirits.

Former "Burrundulla" Inn, Mudgee

The old inn now sits abandoned and in a state of disrepair due to time and vandalism. It is privately owned, and has been the subject of development applications for redevelopment over the last 15 years or so, none of which have eventuated.

Mr. John Broadley of the Mudgee Historical Society will address the 2015 Penrith City Council's Conference in March on the connections between Penrith and Mudgee as relates to the Cox family, and will elaborate on the history of the "Burrundulla" property and perhaps the status of the former inn.

References:
Cox of Mulgoa and Mudgee, John Broadley, 2006
George Henry Cox, Australian Dictionary of Biography, Ruth Teale 1969
Our Story Burrundulla, www.burrundulla.com.au
Stations, Ian Glover, Outback Magazine, Dec/Jan, 2010
Email from John Broadley, February 2009.

Farm Magic

Ian Evans, OAM, PhD, advises that ABC-TV's Landline programme did a story in late 2014 about his continuing research into the influence of folk magic on life in Australia in the period before circa 1935. Ian advises that it is now clear that settlers and convicts brought ancient beliefs in evil spiritual beings with them when they came to Australia. Certain rituals involving the concealment of shoes, garments and other artefacts in building voids were thought to provide protection, as did the use of apotropaic marks to avert evil. The Landline programme had a rural emphasis but the fact was that these rituals took place throughout the Australian

colonies. The evidence of this is slowly coming to light as buildings are being renovated and with new awareness of the material culture of folk magic in this country.

Heritage practitioners should be aware of the possibility of finding concealments or magic marks on their work on old houses and other buildings. Ian asks that he be contacted at www.oldhouses.com.au if either marks or concealments are found.

The Landline episode could be seen at http://www.abc.net.au/landline/content/2014/s4105115.htm

As renovators are rebuilding and restoring old buildings they are finding secrets hidden from view for nearly 200 years. Fiona Breen reported that a type of folk magic was practised by some early settlers, a desperate ply, perhaps, to protect them in a strange new country where the unexpected lurked.

One such place was Woodbury House in Tasmania, which dated from the early 1800s. Objects such as old shoes, a dead cat, children's toys were found secreted away within walls of the building.

At Willow Farm in Tasmania a number of shoes were found hidden on a ledge near the chimney.

The most common location for concealments are typically around doorways, windows, in chimneys and in roof cavities. Ritual etchings too are common, such as a hexafoil at Shene, Tasmania. The etchings are another ancient practice transplanted into Australia to counter evil spiritual forces.

Ian Evans states that what made it so fascinating was that it gives us an insight into the thought processes of the people in Australia at that time, and despite their various religious persuasions, they were still obsessed with fear of death for themselves and their children and other members of their family, because they were taking precautions against evil spiritual beings who might come into the house and cause illness among their children or other members of the family.

Photographs of concealments and markings from Ian's website

Recherche Bay Gardens

Recherche Bay is on the far southern tip of Tasmania, named for the *Recherche,* one of the ships of Rear Admiral Bruni d'Entrecasteaux, which anchored in the bay in April 1792 with the *Esperance,* following a torrid journey through strong winds and high seas across the Indian and Southern Oceans. D'Entrecasteaux himself broke a rib.

The company had been searching for the lost Frenchman la Perouse. They made a temporary camp inside the north east peninsula of the bay. The group was made up of scientists including botanists and naturalists, artists, a mineralogist, a gardener, two astronomers and a hydrographer, as well as sailors, a few soldiers but no settlers, being given instructions to explore the south coast of Australia from Cape Leeuwin, carry out scientific investigations, learn about the local Indigenous people and then come away. Whilst there they explored the coastline in a long boat, unable to fully complete a survey due to lack of water.

The camp had a bakery, blacksmith, a mess hall, garden, ship repair yards and a scientific observatory. Whilst there they collected many plant and animal, bird and geological specimens, and came to record many aspects of the Aboriginal people whom they encountered.

D'Entrecasteaux himself was much taken with the landscape, describing the perfection of

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the harbour, the tall trees, green foliage, and "nature in all its vigour".
Following ship repairs and caulking of the ships, and reprovisioning with water, firewood and fish, the ships sailed away in January 1793.
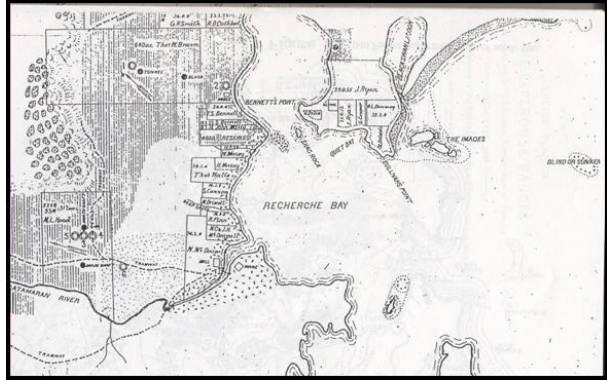In 2003 [Senator] Bob Brown sought to find the French garden of 1792, and discovered some mossy rocks surrounding a garden area, an area of 21 feet by 27 feet (8.8m x 6.8m) divided into 4 sections! The stone "botanic garden" structure had supposedly been established by gardener Felix Delahaye as part of the d'Entrecasteaux expedition.
In April 2002 the bulldozers of a logging operation had commenced construction of a road to log the peninsular. Following extensive protests Brown secured the support of entrepreneur Dick Smith who purchased the peninsular with support from the State government and public subscriptions and gifted it to the Tasmanian Land Conservancy.
So the historic landscape was rescued from destruction. Various sections of the peninsular were nominated for entry in the Tasmanian Heritage Register, which were duly registered in 2006.

Recherche Bay observatory site

Plan of the Bay

The garden was planted with onions, cress, chervil, celery, potatoes, cabbages, radishes, chicory and sorrel. It took 3 men more than 3 days to prepare the ground and sow the seed. It was intended to benefit the Aboriginal community as well as provide a future resource for mariners who might visit the area.

However, the listing has always been questioned as archaeological investigation showed that the original garden was probably a little further inland. The garden area found by Bob Brown was probably an uncompleted structure associated with the milling industry in the area about the turn of the 20th Century. The structure is still to be protected. However the location of the original French garden is yet to be finally determined.

Other particular sites part of the nomination included the burial site of gunner Boucher in the Cockle Creek area (first European burial on Tasmanian soil), a forge site at Motts Beach and the observatory site at Bennett's Point.

Heritage Agreements and Management Plans are in place to manage the various sites as long as they remain listed. Investigations across the peninsular also recorded former whaling and timber settlements.

D'Entrecasteaux 's voyage remains significant for the following reasons:

- Scientific observations and experiments carried out, including proving the science of geomagnetism;
- Meetings between the French & Aboriginal people, representing friendly exchanges, and early records of first contact;
- Associations with a number of people involved with the expedition, including d'Entrecasteaux himself, naturalist Labillardiere, scientist Rossel, gardener Delahaye, hydrographer Beautemps-Beapre and artist Piron.

Recherche Bay

Painting presentation in 2014

Brown commissioned a painting by Ian Hansen to be carried out in 2011 of the *Recherche* and *Esperance* under sail in the bay in 1793, which was presented to the Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery in 2014.

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The significance of the sites demonstrates an important episode in the early exploration, discovery and later settlement of Van Diemen's Land. The setting today has changed little from that originally viewed by the French. Many of the sites do not have tangible or physical remains, but this does not lessen their importance.

References:
Optimism, Bob Brown 2014
Flinders, Rob Mundle 2013
The Great race, David Hil 2012
Recherche Bay Information Package, Tasmanian Heritage Council 2009

Historic Alignment Markers in the Blue Mountains

Walking around your Blue Mountains village you may have noticed a broad arrow embossed on a rusty iron plate, about 4 inches (*10 cm*) square that is set into the kerb.

Figure 1 is a photograph of one that has been polished by the shoes of numerous people as they have entered and exited through the main entrance of Gardner's Inn at Blackheath!

Figure 1. *Alignment marker on the kerb outside of the front door of Gardners Inn, Blackheath. Photo: Peter Rickwood Sept. 2005.*

What you were seeing is the top of what, in official documents, has been called both an Alignment Post[1] or an Alignment Pin[2]*, the raised Broad Arrow being on the uppermost horizontal surface. These iron markers are about 100 years old[3] and were installed by surveyors so are nothing to do with the convicts that are usually associated with the broad arrow symbol.

Sometimes a makeshift substitute for the more common embossed broad arrow was formed out of welding rods and an example is shown in Figure 2; that marker is located at Mount Victoria, on the SE corner of Station Street at the intersection with the Great Western Highway.

* To avoid nomenclature confusion I have preferred to call them Alignment Markers.

Figure 2. *Alignment marker on the kerb of Station Street outside The Imperial Hotel, Mount Victoria. Photo: Peter Rickwood July 2011.*

Installation

The sequence of actions was:
- surveyors determined the precise positions for alignment markers,
- then cast iron markers were installed,
- and finally, if the Local Council could afford to proceed, then kerbs were formed from stone blocks laid between the markers, or more commonly concrete kerbs were cast and sometimes enclosed a marker.

Thus alignment markers were always installed in bare ground such as gravel or soil, and hence can be difficult to locate if kerbs have not been cast (e.g. Figure 3); some may even be partly concealed by grass such as along the Great Western Highway at Blackheath (Figure 4) and formerly at Wentworth Falls[4].

Superficially these markers appear to be rather small but the official description contradicts that impression:

> "ALIGNMENT OF STREETS
>
> 9.12 Alignment pins used for marking the alignment shall be iron castings, open box style, 4 inches x 4 inches x 18 inches (*10.2 x 10.2 x 45.7 cm*) which should be supplied by the Council, and be in readiness at time of survey. These are available at the Department of Lands as also are castings 24 inches (*61 cm*) long for use in sandy soils."[5]

Thus most of each marker is buried to ensure both stability and durability but their true size can be assessed from a photograph on the internet[6] of one that had been removed from the "WSW corner of Morven Road and Russell Road, Leura" and is claimed to weigh 12 kg. Judging by the stated length it is one of the longer ones; incidentally, a kerb has never been formed at that location!

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Figure 3. *Alignment marker in gravel at the NW corner of the Oval in Wentworth Street, Blackheath. Photo: Peter Rickwood August 2010.*

Figure 4. *Alignment marker in grass alongside the Great Western Highway and opposite the north side of Prince George Street, Blackheath. Photo: Peter Rickwood January 2015.*
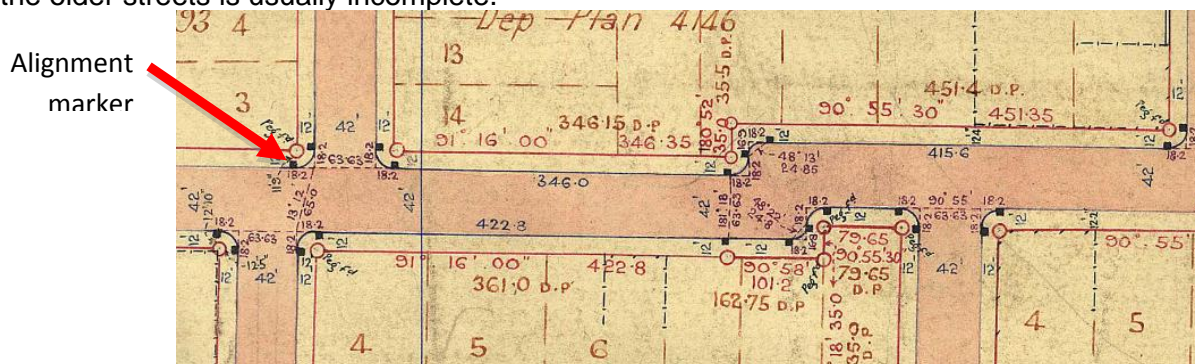
Re-locating alignment markers.

Alignment markers were most commonly placed at the corners of streets, not precisely at the corner but in line with the portion boundaries. Hence each corner had two such markers (Figure 5), one arm of the broad arrow being approximately parallel to the kerb and as the other is at 75º it pointed in the general direction of the portion boundary that was in the intersecting street; for the surveyor it is the point of the arrow that is the precise location marker. Thus for a cross road intersection there could be eight markers, and at a T junction usually four (Figure 5) but sometimes just two placed opposite the lot

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boundaries in the side street (e.g. at Blackheath on the west side of the Great Western Highway at the intersection with Prince George Street). But markers were also installed where a road took a bend, and along some straight sections (e.g. Figure 1) between corner markers that were deemed far apart.

A decade ago, a short account was published[7] concerning the remaining alignment markers in Blackheath. The research for that article involved walking all of the streets that were drawn on the 1913 alignment plan[8] and not only trying to find those markers indicated on the plan but also checking other likely locations. Searching was also carried out along other streets that were thought to have existed pre-WWI. The outcome was that in July 2005 only 50 markers remained in Blackheath yet 256 are shown on that 1913 alignment plan as having been installed. No doubt some were lost when parts of the kerbs were repaired, or replaced, or when ramps and drains were installed at street corners. One instance is known of a marker being removed in 2010 during the widening of Wentworth Street, Blackheath and subsequently being incorporated in the new kerb! Following the publication of that 2005 article on Blackheath, the research was extended to all of the other villages in the Blue Mountains for which alignment plans were known (and subsequently no more have been discovered). An alignment plan was usually drawn at such a scale that it covers only a few of the streets in a village, hence for some villages there are a number of different plans (e.g. Katoomba) nevertheless coverage of the older streets is usually incomplete.

Figure 5. *Part of the alignment map of Leura[9], showing the curious misalignment of Craigend Street between Albert and Holmes Streets. On that plan Surveyor Madsen stated "Alignment Posts fixed as shown in Black .... ☺" and a handwritten insertion after "Posts" is "(Cast iron)".*

In 2006 no alignment plans had been located for Bullaburra, Woodford, Linden, Faulconbridge, Coomassie, Valley Heights, Warrimoo, Blaxland, Glenbrook and Lapstone so those villages were not searched, but in hindsight possibly they should have been. Thus both Mount Victoria and Medlow Bath were inspected even though no alignment plans were known; the outcome was that two alignment markers were found in Mount Victoria (e.g. Figure 2) yet the inspection of the streets in Medlow Bath revealed none.

That second phase of searching was completed in 2007 and annotated photocopies of the alignment plans were sent to Land and Property Information NSW from which their staff drew a map of each of eight villages (Mount Victoria, Blackheath, Katoomba, Leura, Wentworth Falls, Lawson, Hazelbrook and Springwood) with all of the markers then existing indicated - Figure 6 is one of these maps. Due to the scale of these maps, and the size of the circles used to indicate the location of markers, it can be difficult to ascertain the precise position of a particular marker which is why I did not call them plans.
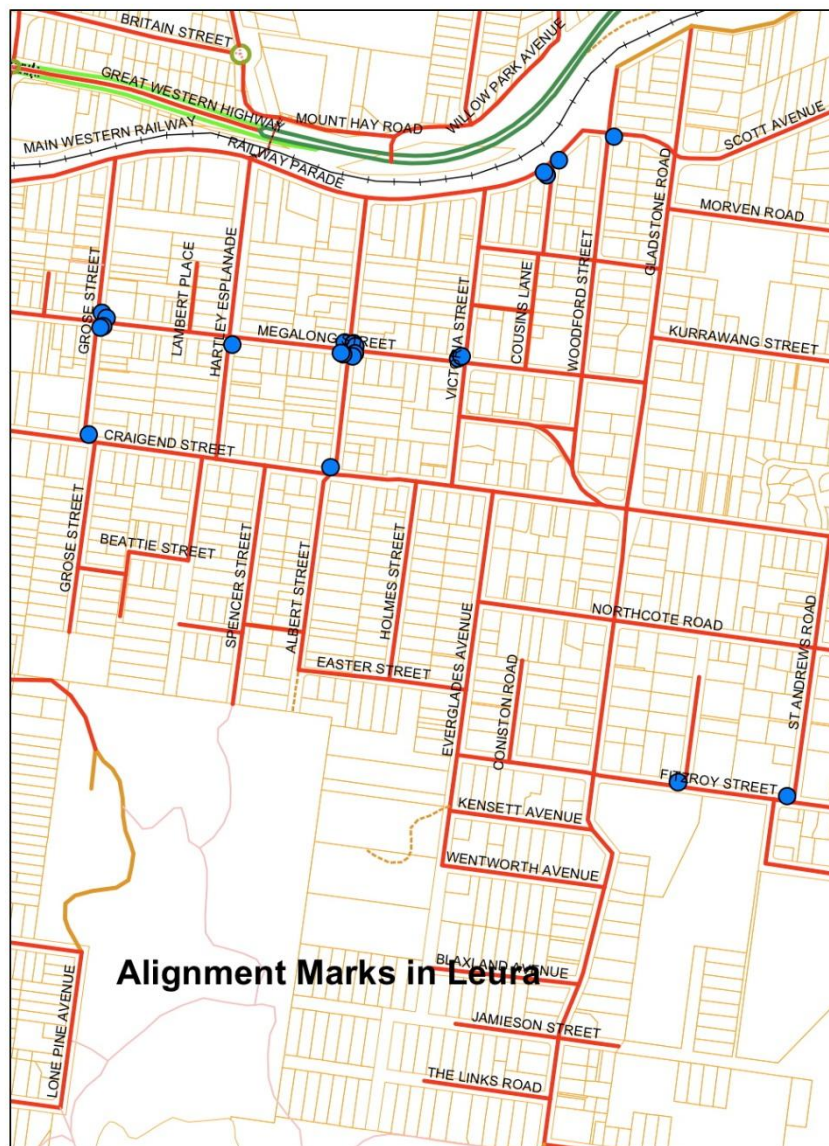
But why go to all that bother to find the remaining alignment markers? That was best explained by the then Manager of the Cadastral Management Unit of the Department of

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Lands:

> "I am using your good work to communicate to all road and construction utilities (i.e. BMCC, RTA, Sydney Water, Energy Australia, etc) the location of the surviving alignment marks. As they form essential evidence to re-establish the cadastre in these streets and they are our surveying heritage, it is paramount that all marks are preserved wherever possible and every means to protect them must be made."[10].

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Figure 6. *2007 Map of Alignment Marks in Leura*
© Land and Property Information (2007)

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That project ended eight years ago and a lot of road re-construction has taken place since so it is unlikely that all of the markers found between 2005 and 2007 will still be in place; those 2007 maps are merely snapshots of the best knowledge of the situation at that time. It is now known that not all of the existing markers were found during that second phase of research. Thus in 2011 a previously missed alignment marker was located outside of 26 Honour Avenue, Lawson but reports of others in that village have not led to other discoveries. One that was reported to be on the east side of Honour Street to the north-west of Flinders Street (outside of the rear entry to 3 Cascade Street) appears to have been removed when a concrete path was installed, and those on kerbs at the north end of Bass Street[11] were lost when the Great Western Highway was widened.

Peter C Rickwood

References
[1] *e.g. Madsen, S.B. (1913) Plan of proposed alignment under the Public Roads Act 1902 of Streets in the Village of Blackheath and part of the Great Western Road, Urban Area, Blue Mountains Shire, Parish of Blackheath, County of Cook, Land District of Lithgow, Land Board District of Orange, Scale – 2 chains to an inch. Transmitted 25th Novr No.13-1 1-2609. Section 4.8 in Hughes, L. (2007) Hallmann's Legal Aspects of Boundary Surveying as Apply in New South Wales. Release 6, February 2007. 827pp.*

[2] *e.g. p.78 in Marshall, I.H. (ed.) Marking the Landscape. A Short History of Survey Marking in New South Wales. The Board of Surveyors of New South Wales. 128pp.*

[3] *e.g. see Blue Mountains Shire. Nepean Times, 20 December 1912, p.9, col.1 (re Springwood); The Engineer's Reports. Blue Mountains Shire. Nepean Times, 12 July 1913, p.3, col.2 (re Blackheath & Lawson) ; Mountain Memoirs. Springwood. Blue Mountains Echo, 6 August 1913, p.5, col.3 (re Mount Victoria & Springwood); Questions. Blue Mountains Shire. Nepean Times, 6 September 1913, p.6, col.7 (re Blackheath & Lawson).*

[4] *p.21 in RMS (2012) Standard Management Procedure: Unexpected Archaeological Finds. Transport. NSW Roads and Maritime Services. July 2012. 35pp. http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/documents/about/environment/protecting-heritage/managing-development/unexpected-archaeological-finds-procedure.pdf <Accessed 11 January 2015>*

[5] *Reference [2].*

[6] *Bruce Ayling's Homepage http://web.aanet.com.au/bayling/alignpin.html <Accessed 11 January 2015>*

[7] *Rickwood, P.C. and Sadler, G. (2005). Historic Alignment Markers. Hobby's Outreach, 17(4): 1 & 4.*

[8] *Reference [1], item 1.*

[9] *Madsen, S.B. (1915) Plan of proposed alignment of Streets under the Public Roads Act 1902. – Blue Mountains Shire – Parish of Jamieson, County of Cook, Land District of Lithgow, Land Board District of Orange. Town of Leura. Scale 2 chains to one inch. Transmitted with field notes to the District Surveyor Orange with letter dated 7th April 1915 No.7. S.B. Madsen, Licensed Surveyor.*

[10] *Pers. Comm. Les.Gardner@lands.nsw.gov.au 25 Jun 2007.*

[11] p.12 in Blue Mountains City Council (2006) Enclosure 1. Blue Mountains Local Environment Plan 2005. Draft Amendment 1 (Heritage Amendment for Lawson, Hazelbrook, Springwood and Blaxland). Consideration of Submissions. 45pp.
http://www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/yourcouncil/councilmeetings/2006meetings/21november2006
Download 9 < Accessed 13 January 2015>

The Technical Side

Cultural Landscapes

Cultural landscapes are all around us and we hear the term bandied around often enough. Cultural landscapes are the result of the interaction of humans with their environment over many years, and relate to the visual impact and significance of places. It is said that they should be protected for future generations, as they may be valued by the community on a number of levels:

- They may show the evolution of settlement and societies.
- They may hold myths, legends, spiritual and symbolic meanings.
- They may be highly regarded for their beauty.
- They tell us about societies' use of natural resources, past events and sustainable landuse, and/or,
- They may display landscape design and technology achievements.

Some are designed **intentionally** such as gardens, suburbs, landscapes, ornamental lakes, water storages or campuses eg. gardens by Paul Sorensen such as Lidsdale House at Lithgow and gardens such as the Everglades at Leura.

Everglades

Lidsdale House

Some are **evolutions** over time of landuses in their form and features such as relict former mining or rural landscapes, eg. Peelwood, Glen Davis, Adelong and Newnes, or continuing landscapes such as modern active farms like Tocal at Paterson, or Coombing Park at Carcoar, vineyards such as many in the Hunter, Claire and Barossa Valleys, plantations, or mines such as Cadia and those at Broken Hill.

Peelwood mine site

Tocal outbuildings

It may also include natural environments such as coastal landscapes, rainforest remnants and wilderness areas.

Some are also **associativ**e landscapes that are landscapes or landscape features that represent religious, artistic, sacred or other cultural associations to individuals or communities.eg. cemeteries and church landscapes, the Cox's Road and Great North Road remaining colonial road features, the various war sites along the coasts of Australia which represented our defence initiatives during WW II eg. North and South Heads in Sydney, gun emplacements at Lithgow and Port Stevens.

Gun emplacement, Port Stephens

Cox's Road, Mt Blaxland

Threats

Numerous threats exist which may endanger the ongoing appreciation and preservation of these landscapes such as:

Lack of identification and recognition of values.

Large developments such as mining, forestry plantations, new infrastructure and urban expansion.

Incremental detrimental large and small changes.

Natural disasters such as floods, cyclones, bushfires, drought or other disaster.

Man-made erosion, salinity and detrimental weeds.

Protection

Protection is available through local plans and zonings, and other controls such as local, State and Territory, Federal and National heritage listings.

The protection process is not unlike other heritage protection. The important provenance must be recorded, the stories, the physical features, the views, the aesthetic qualities. Record how the landscape has been used, its sustainability and conservation needs. Communities (including indigenous) should be contacted to ascertain meanings, stories

and interpretations associated with the landscape. The landscape should be mapped and photographed, and any potential threats documented. Management guidance should be offered, and the findings should be publicised to relevant authorities who are relevant to the protection process.

Adapted from brochure by Australia ICOMOS www.australia.icomos.org Australia ICOMOS Inc. is the national chapter of ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites), an international non-government organisation primarily concerned with the philosophy, terminology, methodology and techniques of cultural heritage conservation.

Community events & updates

Loss of significant heritage building near Woodstock
Sunday Telegraph, 15 February 2015
A Royal Easter Show steward has been fined $175,000 after illegally demolishing a 100-year-old homestead to build a new home for his ailing wife.
Gregory Fuller pleaded guilty in the Land and Environment Court of breaching the Environment Planning and Assessment Act for his role in removing the historic Cowra property without council consent.
The Woodstock cattle farmer from the State's central west claimed the homestead had been in poor condition, while his wife was unable to walk up the stairs to the second floor.
Constructed in the 1900s, the Shiel Homestead was built in a late Victorian design before being renovated in the 1920s to a late Federation-style.
The court heard Mr Fuller and his wife Sharon bought the property and surrounding land in 2011 for $6.9 million.

The couple later lodged a development application to erect three sheds on the property, before discussing with Cowra Shire Council of plans to replace the homestead with a new one.
Shortly after the discussions, the court heard the council assessed the property for the purpose of listing it as a heritage item.
"That he was motivated by in part by the desire to provide a suitable residence for his ill wife is not an adequate excuse" - Justice Nicola Pain
In January 2012, the couple spent $600,000 on new sheds and a cattle yard complex.
Two months later, the Council wrote a letter to the Fullers indicating that the home was to be included as a "heritage item" in the local environment plan.
In April, while Mr Fuller and his wife were in Sydney exhibiting cattle at the Royal Easter

Show, the homestead was demolished. The court heard the contractors removed the house at the direction of Mr Fuller.

The maximum penalty for the offence committed is $1.1 million.

In handing down the sentence last week, Justice Nicola Pain noted Mr Fuller's claims that he had committed [the breach] as a result of extenuating circumstances, including the ill health of his wife.

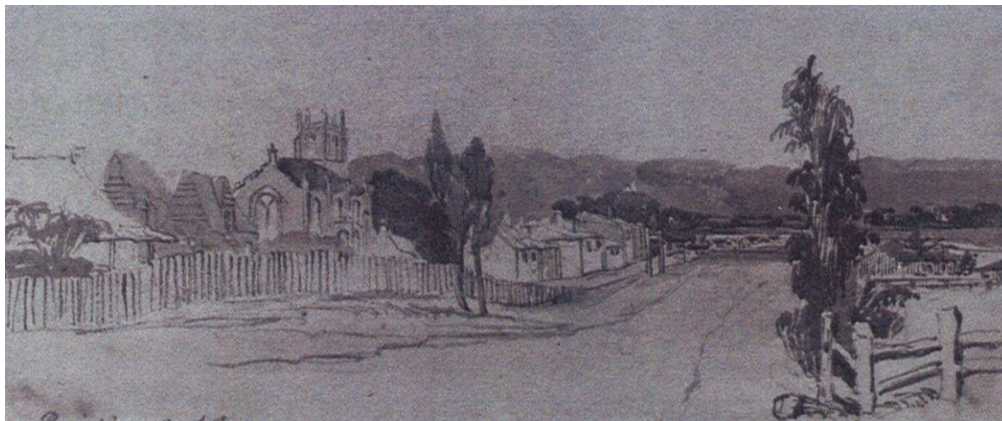However, the demolition still constituted a breach, she said.

"That he was motivated by in part by the desire to provide a suitable residence for his ill wife is not an adequate excuse,…. The state of repair of the Shiel Homestead is irrelevant to lessening the seriousness of the offence…… While it was in poor repair and required significant restoration work … it remained structurally sound."

Mr Fuller was ordered to pay $175,000.

The Makings of a City: From Guard House to Gallipoli
Penrith 14th Annual History Conference

The Penrith City Council and Library's 2015 History Conference will be held this year on Saturday 14 March 2015 at the Bonynge Concert Hall of the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre at 597 High Street, Penrith.

The conference will acknowledge some significant events in the City's history – the 200th anniversary of the construction of the guard house and depot on the new Great Western Road (now the site of Penrith Police Station) and the 100th anniversary on 25th April 2015 of the landing by ANZAC forces on Gallipoli.

Early Penrith Main Street

Guest speakers will include:
- Carol Liston – early days of the settlement that became Penrith.
- John Broadley – the connections between Penrith and Mudgee, following up the families (such as the cox's) who moved across the mountains to settle in the western districts of NSW.
- Lorraine Stacker – the development of the District of Evan and its ultimate demise as a place name.
- Norm Andrews – a history of the RSL – the stories about the creation of the organisation after the war and the establishment of Memory Park.
- Kim Phillips – the Gallipoli campaign and the local men who took part.

To book please contact Alison Spencer on 02 4732 7687 or at
alisons@penrithcity.nsw.gov.au
More details and copies of the conference brochure can be found at
http://penrithhistory.wordpress.com/home/makings-of-a-city-history-conference/

Yvonne Jenkins Memorial Award 2015

An award to be known as the "Yvonne Jenkins Memorial Award" was launched in 2014 by the Lithgow & District Family History Society and the winner will be announced during Family History Month 2015. The award was prompted by the commemoration of the centenary of ANZAC, and the current topic is "What my ancestor did during World War I". This is not necessarily a serviceman or woman.

The award honours the Society's founder and local and family historian Yvonne Jenkins from Rydal NSW. The Award would be in the form of a certificate and a free membership of the Society for the following year.

Yvonne Jenkins

Entry is open to both members and non-members of the LDFHS, and is to be in the form of a short essay. Entries are not to exceed 1,000 words and must be submitted by 30th April 2015. Full details and the entry form are available from the Society at ldfhs@lisp.com.au or by writing to The Secretary, PO Box 516, Lithgow 2790.

Hartley Australia Day Awards

The Hartley District Progress Association was originally established in 1956 with the aim of improving the living conditions within the Hartley district, along with promotion of cultural, social, sporting and other aspects of the area.

The Hartley valley sits below the western and northern edges of the Blue Mountains plateau, 125km west of Sydney, and has been used by nomadic hunters and gatherers, miners, orchardists and graziers, and more recently is occupied by small holdings and family lifestyle blocks.

Cultural features today include colonial architecture and historic sites, and remnants of the shale oil industry, quite apart from a spectacular landscape.

Recent Australia Day awards recognised two members of the community for their respective community works. Margaret Combs was recognised and awarded an Order of Australia Medal for her services to local history as well as to the local emergency services and local sporting organisations. David Peters received a Volunteer Award for his active membership of eleven community service enterprises.

Congratulations to those Hartley people, and indeed to the Hartley community who would have supported their work!

Hartley valley

RSL Centenary of ANZAC Commemorations

As Australia and New Zealand commemorate the Centenary of ANZAC, the New South Wales Government reiterates its support for our service men and women and the Returned and Services League (RSL) of Australia.

In a recent Ministerial Press Release the NSW government, The Hon Paul Toole MP and the Hon Pru Goward MP, advise that community interest in events in general is already significant and many are led by the RSL. In the lead up to ANZAC Day and more broadly in the planning of other Centenary events, events are being planned in all local government areas in New South Wales, and all local councils are urged to support the events.

The government and the RSL encourage Councils to assist in the preparation of the Centenary of ANZAC services and events, assisting RSL sub-branch representatives with event management in planning and running ANZAC Day and other Centenary services throughout the entire Centenary period.

Councils are also urged to use discretion and remain mindful of the importance of the services when deciding whether or not to impose fees for development applications and other local approvals. It is hoped that due to the local, State and national significance of these events that councils will see fit to waive any fees that may traditionally be imposed, if they able.

For councils requiring further information on community events please refer to *"DEVELOPING A COUNCIL COMMUNITY EVENTS POLICY – A TOOLKIT FOR NSW COUNCILS", NSW Government, 2011.*

Further information regarding RSL events can be found by contacting your local RSL sub-branch in the coming months.

BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

Registered office: 1/19 Stypandra Place, Springwood 2777. (02) 4751 5834
Email: committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au or j.koperberg@bigpond.com
Website: 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 contributers. 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.