

Heritage

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Heritage Organisations Inc*

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The Hydro Majestic Hotel

The iconic hotel was created by Mark Foy the Sydney businessman, sportsman and playboy, in 1904. The initial complex comprised three earlier buildings:

- The single storey country retreat of WH Hargraves, son of Edward Hargraves of gold discovery fame. This home had been built in two stages, a Victorian style cottage, followed by a two storey extension which became the Delmonte Hallway. Hargraves land also included 9km of bush walking tracks, available to the public. Foy leased the property in 1902 and purchased it in 1903.
- The existing hotel called the Belgravia, opened in 1891 by Mr & Mrs Ellis.
- Cottage owned by local solicitor Alfred Tucker.

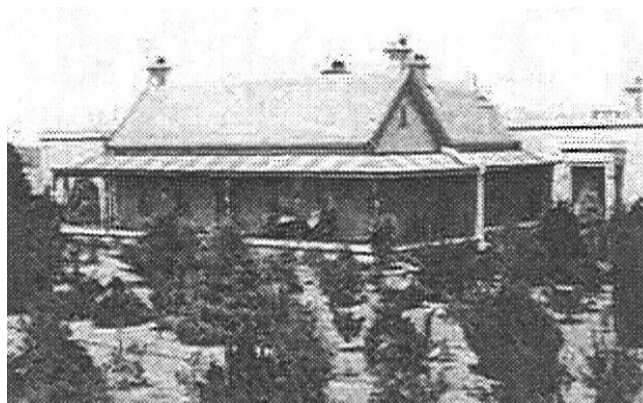


In 1904 Mark Foy created his hydropathic establishment, opening the facility on 4th July to attract American visitors, advertising cures for nervous, alimentary, respiratory and circulatory ailments, but did not include sufferers of infectious diseases and mental illness.

He believed that the land contained mineral springs, although this was probably in error, as Foy was importing mineral water from Germany. The town was then known as Medlow, and Foy petitioned the NSW Government to change the name to Medlow Bath.



Belgravia



Hargraves House



Tucker cottage



Hydro Majestic 1904 - Casino

A striking prefabricated casino was brought in from Chicago, and erected between Hargravia and Belgravia with the picture gallery joining the buildings together. The dome was built to Foy's specifications and dismantled for shipping. Guests enjoyed the magnificent view over the Megalong Valley and a resident Swiss doctor, George Baur, attended to their ailments. Patients were restricted to no alcohol, no tobacco and no discussion of illnesses. However, Baur left after only a year, being replaced by Dr Cale.



Buildings complex 2015

The entire complex was heated and powered by the separate boiler house. It had privately operated electricity, sewer system, freezing works and telephone systems. Foy extended the walking tracks down into the valley, which were popular within the health regime of the hotel. The tracks took one through steep gullies and past waterfalls, caves, the Coliseum and

included Sun Bath. In later years the track down the cliff was closed due to safety, becoming the “forbidden” track. At the base was the Hydro’s farmhouse on a 600 acre farm some 1700 feet below the hotel. Mark Foy named many of the features on his property which included the Coliseum, Sun Bath, Solomon’s Seat and Pulpit Rock.



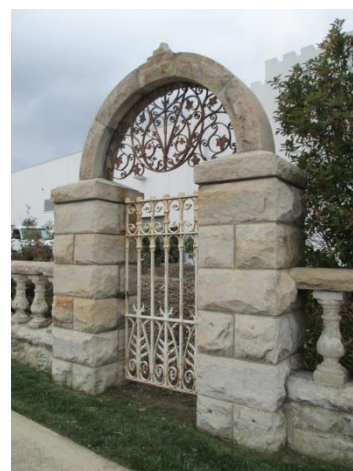
Casino 2015



Belgravia 2015

Eventually the hotel prevailed over the clinic in 1906. Entertainment was lavish. Foy’s farm in Megalong Valley supplied the kitchens via flying fox, and a stable of horses allowed guests to explore the valley. The farm provided horse riding, shooting and a tea house, entertainments, art and statuary. He set up numerous sporting facilities, and created the Mountains Motor Car Company, with his fleet of luxurious cars, taking guests on tours to places such as Echo Point and Jenolan Caves almost daily. The cars were readily able to handle the poor conditions of the western road. Many were auctioned in 1910, including Fiats, Daimlers and a De Dion, but they played an important role at the Hydro. Foy established magnificent gardens, balustrading and the stone fence we see today, tennis courts and promenades, and brought in expensive furnishings, artworks and set up other facilities including golf links, croquet courts and clay pigeon shooting. Many of the waiters who served the hotel were Chinese, and coffee was served by two Turks in national costume. Charlie (Louie) Goh Mong was a favourite of Foy and guests, working there for some 35 years.

Foy bought up other property, including houses on the eastern side of the railway line for staff. Many famous guests stayed at the hotel including Dame Nellie Melba, Edmund Barton and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.



Features along highway frontage

In 1905 a bushfire destroyed the gallery building. In 1913 Foy had leased the property to business man James Joynton Smith for 60,000 pounds. During this lease period, in August 1922 a bushfire severely damaged both the hotel and the picture gallery, sweeping away up

to 130 of the bedrooms. Loss of life was prevented as the hotel was closed for the winter. The fire also destroyed a section of the Explorers' Tree. The tree had died in 1903 and been lopped. Mark Foy had retrieved the logs and taken them back to the Hydro, where he displayed them on a pedestal for visitors to see.

The buildings were replaced, with the Belgravia completed by 1936. A new wing, which had replaced the old Belgravia, was built in 1938. In WW2 the place was utilized as a convalescent hospital by American servicemen, during which time the condition deteriorated due to vandalism. After it was vacated in 1943 it remained vacant for a time until the government paid compensation for the war contribution, and refurbishment was undertaken. Mark Foy died in 1950.

The Hydro received heritage listing in 1984. By this time the economic burden had taken its toll on the family, and the resort was sold to barrister John North, who under took further upgrades, removing the Lounge bar and introducing the Megalong room. Further refurbishment and alterations were done in the early 1990s. Fire again threatened the hotel in 2002. A Malaysian based group purchased the site from North in 2006, and the place was closed for refurbishment in 2008.



View across tennis courts to Megalong



Garden wall

The Escarpment Group has a deep commitment to preserving, restoring and respecting history as well as delivering world class visitor experiences. The hotel has now reopened in late 2014 with most of the site restored to its former glory at a cost of \$35m. In addition the boiler house has been recovered from the blackberries and scrub and converted to a fine restaurant/café. The works included restoration of historic areas, beautification of the gardens, renovation of the hotel's two main façades (east and west), a new lobby to provide dining, conference and function areas, creation of the Mark Foy Pavillion as a providores and history centre, regional tasting centre and an interactive history environment. A hospitality training centre has been established, new accommodation wings and a large spa and treatment room complex.



Boiler House cafe



Hydro Majestic Pavillion

As with many old hotels across the world, there are also the ghost stories!! Ghost tours are still a feature of the place. Apparently one tale details a girl who jumps around the furniture in the guests' lounge. Another tells of a young female who sought to flee a troublesome male suitor in 1912, and boarded a commuter train at Sydney's Central Station, fleeing west to Medlow Bath to find sanctuary, or so she thought, in the hotel's labyrinth of corridors and alcoves. Unfortunately for the lady, her less than chivalrous admirer, devastated by her apparent rejection, pursued her to her room where he strangled her with her favourite silk scarf.



View from Bellevue Crescent 2015

Also meeting a premature end while holidaying at the Hydro Majestic in January of 1920 was Australia's first Prime Minister, Sir Edmund Barton, who passed away of heart failure while taking a bath in a second-floor suite.

There are also the Hydro's more "permanent" occupants. Take a tour of this venerable, eclectic hotel and you're bound to hear the story of its two resident ghosts, a little girl in a blue frock with a white lace collar who likes to run through walls, and the boy who's often seen by staff sitting on the dining room's chandeliers long after the last diners have returned to their rooms!

Patsy Moppett

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Food for thought Editor's note ***Rare Trades***

We are continually able to review and consider research relating to heritage buildings and places in publications such as *Heritage* and other newsletters, books, magazines, journals and on line. We wonder at the architecture and the fabric, the landscaping and the setting. How often though, do we consider the tradesmen who carry out these sometimes basic works, the craftsmen who undertake these “rare trades”, the people who make things with their hands. So many works are now carried out by machine that the old manual skills are in danger of being forgotten, but for a very special group of people who remain experienced artisans in their respective trade. This includes dry stone wallers, coopers, shipwrights, bodgers and blacksmiths, quarrymen and stonemasons, engravers, and bullockies, coach builders and farriers, bookbinders and violin makers, weavers and woodcarvers, and many others.

The notion of a Rare Trade, the things they all have in common, are these:

- that the skills they use were the same a hundred and more years ago. Many objects made then are still used for their primary purpose, so the tools, materials and techniques are proven over time.
- that their skills were originally learned as a trade, rather than creative art or home craft. That means the things they make are meant to be functional before they are beautiful. In fact, they are beautiful because they have been made with such care and detail to a custom need.
- that the things they crafted were intended to last, and may well outlive you. They are designed to be repaired and inherited, not replaced and discarded.



Weaver



Stonemason

I would like to undertake a series of articles in *Heritage – The Technical Side*, to look at some of these skilled artisans who still make things the old way. Skilled manual work, the kind that took a real master, is now rare. Some of the rare trades will never really disappear as there will always be a trickle of demand for those services. They come with their own special tools, traditions, language and secrets. These people each have tools specific to their trade, which in themselves are often museum pieces and historical artifacts. They take raw materials and shape them with these few tools and their hands into utensils and furniture, ornaments and buildings. Their patience enables them to extract life and character from these raw materials, the properties of which are in danger of being forgotten. It is said that we are not just losing the skills, but also a sense of attitudes and approaches, how to solve problems, adaptation and invention, curiosity, memory, knowledge and insights. Some of these things are critical to the world's survival and things which a world of technology cannot duplicate.



Stonemason's tools



Carpenter's tools

We cannot deny that in some of these trades getting your hands dirty is not always fun. It can be hard, hot and dirty work (ask a blacksmith). For those who, in a medieval world, made their livelihood from some of these skills, it may not have made for a beautiful life. But the sense of satisfaction at the end of the day, that you have created something beautiful with minimal tools and machines, something which has instilled within in part of yourself, is not something that can be experienced through a world of IT.

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sagoontuesdays@bigpond.com

Was your council Fit For the Future?

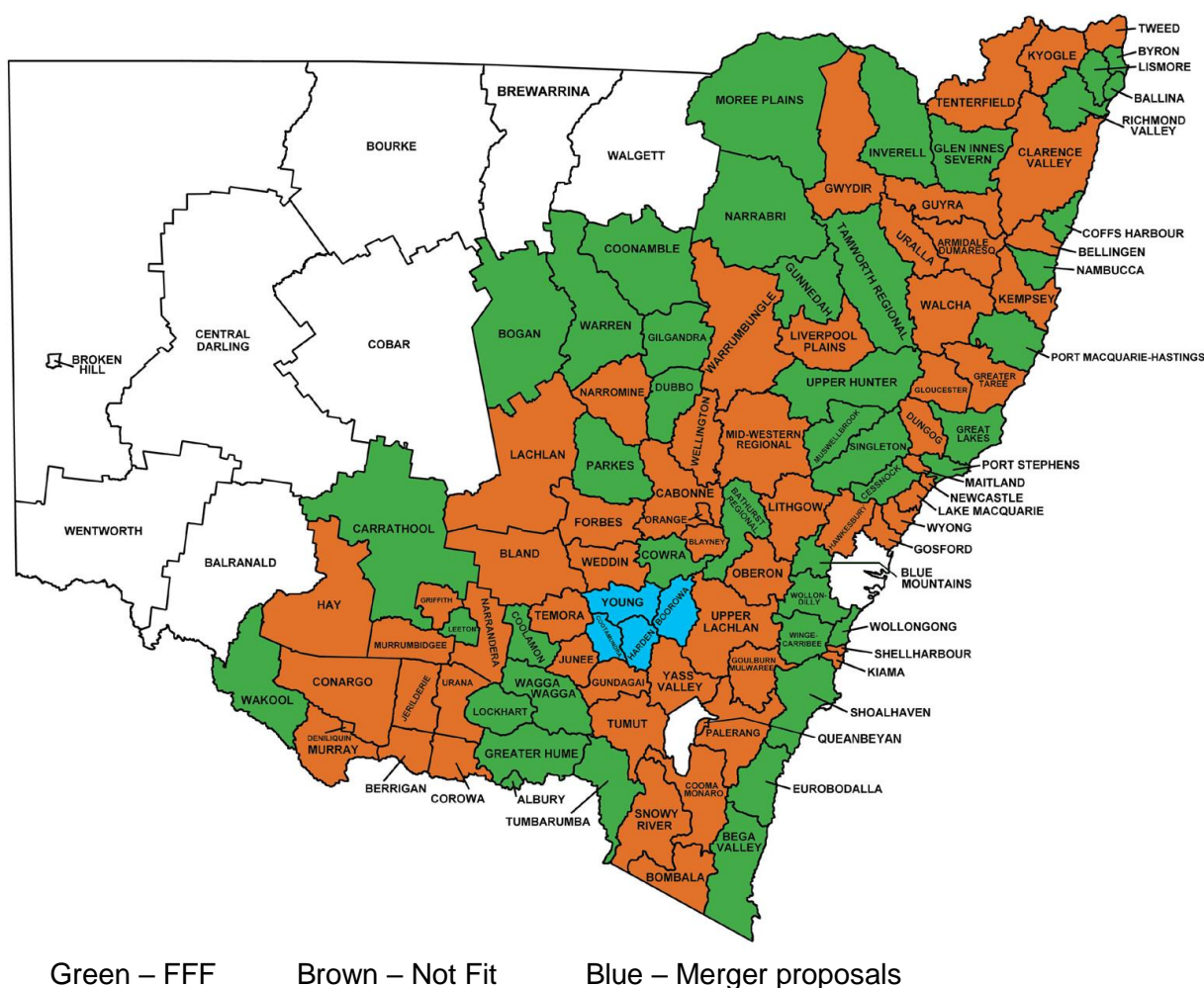
The Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) has recently provided the NSW Government with its report card on the assessment of 139 councils across the State, and their ability to be “Fit For the Future” (FFF).

Councils were assessed on:

- Scale & capacity
- Financial criteria (financial, infrastructure and service management and efficiency).

IPART found that only 37% of the State’s councils are FFF.

A variety of reconfigurations to local government composition are currently being considered by both metro and regional councils who were deemed not fit, to formulate a preferred solution by 18th November 2015 for presentation to the government.



The report card set out the advantages of mergers, and declared how scale and capacity could be improved. In particular, some 34 councils were assessed as having insufficient scale and capacity, because they have declining or static populations, with population forecasts below 10,000 by 2031. It was felt that a population of this size is likely to affect a council's efficiency and strategic capacity to meet the future needs of its community.

Editor's Comment: The report card has only said that a small population was “likely” to affect a council’s capacity to perform, and on this basis alone has deemed them unfit, in spite of the fact that many of these smaller councils were financially fit, and have been serving their communities satisfactorily for many years.

Nobody would deny that scale and capacity can be improved, but why go to this expensive extent. These councils could have been given the opportunity to provide evidence of how they could work better with what they already have.

The FFF process has been a major exercise in semantics, with suggestions that voluntary mergers would see a faster progression towards efficiencies. Read – “if you do not do it voluntarily you will be forced to do it our way ie. forced amalgamations”. FFF placed the emphasis back on councils to prove their worth, and it is now obvious that government have had preconceived outcomes all along.

(Please note these are the Editor's comments only, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of all BMACHO members).

Implications for BMACHO members and other heritage and cultural organisations

Amongst BMACHO membership, relevant councils are Blue Mountains, Penrith, Lithgow and Hawkesbury. Lithgow and Hawkesbury fall within the “not fit” category. However, many readers of this newsletter will be located in other local government areas affected by the changes.

Moving forward with the inevitable, it was raised at the recent Royal Historical Society Conference in Bankstown that societies and organisations should look to their constitutions, MOUs and policies to make sure they too, are FFF. Some things to consider include:

- Some organisations have been formed under the auspices of the Local Government Act as a S355 committee and where a new council is formed, may no longer be a valid body.
- More informal committees may exist solely at the behest of the current council. The question should be asked that, if the council is dissolved and a new council formed, where does that leave you?
- Where are your headquarters? What are your storage arrangements? A new council may not be satisfied with the current arrangements in the local hall, library etc.
- What is the name of your organisation? Does it include the words “shire” or “district”, and how would this work if the shire no longer existed? How does this affect letterheads, logos etc.

The conference specifically mentioned:

- If a society has generally covered a single LGA this may change.
- Some of your area may be lost to another LGA.
- You may have to work with another society to cover your original area of interest.
- Impacts on support from a new council.
- Local history v. local identity – will this change?
- Will your group be compliant/reactive or active/proactive in moving forward.

Leuralla Sculptures

On a kerb stone on the south side of Hunter Street, opposite the State Library, is an engraving in the form of a Jewish candelabra or menorah (Figure 1).

Being a frequent user of the State Library, and having often crossed Macquarie Street at this corner, this engraving had puzzled me for many years so eventually I asked the RAHS Librarian, Donna Newton, about it. At first she was unable to help but after asking the secretary of a member organisation she was able to solve the puzzle and she wrote a short note for the RAHS Newsletter¹, which was accompanied by my photograph (Figure 1*), and reads:

“After futile searching of the net, I forwarded this query onto another of our affiliated societies who promptly supplied some answers. The carving chiseled into the kerb is a representation of the seven-branched menorah. It is the work of a Saul Munro, sculptor, who worked on the bicentenary project of paving stones along Macquarie Street in 1987. Saul, interested in biblical signs and images loved leaving a Jewish symbol on much of his work.”²



Figure 1. Kerbstone in Hunter Street at corner with Macquarie Street.
Photo: Peter Rickwood 2015

"The Three Mysteries of Life" sculpture nearly buried amongst the bush in the garden annex of the Leuralla Toy and Train Museum in Leura, NSW was sculpted by him. This interesting display is very overgrown and neglected with a barely visible sign. And that is another mystery!"

Her findings were emailed to me before publication and they came with a photograph of the Leura carvings taken in 2010 before their surroundings became overgrown³. Being intrigued about this connection of the Hunter Street engraving with sculptures in the Blue Mountains I went to see for myself.

As was correctly reported, the sculptures are in the garden annexe of the Leuralla Toy and Train Museum, 29 Olympian Parade, and entry to that annexe is by payment to get a turnstile to rotate. It gives access to a well-kept grassed area upslope of the renowned amphitheatre but there are no paths leading to the sculptures. Indeed they are only visible from outside the fence line at the N corner of the property (Figure 2).

* Another photograph of that kerbstone was later found on the internet⁴.



Figure 2. Location of sculptures in Olympia Parade, Leura
SixMaps © Land and Property Information (2015)

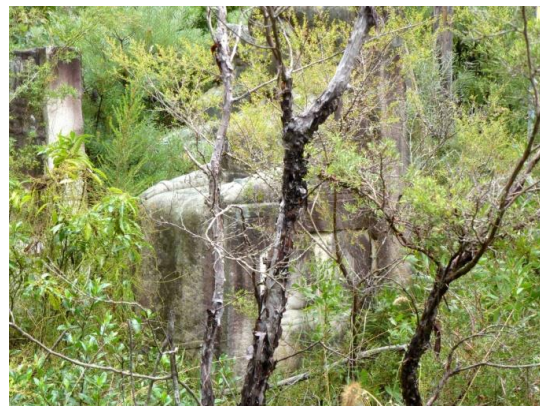


Figure 3. One of three sculptures by Saul Munro
Photo: Peter Rickwood February 2015



Figure 4. Well hidden sculptures.
Photo: Peter Rickwood February 2015



Figure 5. Signage
Photo: Peter Rickwood February 2015

From outside the fence, the sculptures can be partially seen (Figures 3 & 4) amidst a veritable jungle and the signage is just about readable by looking around the sides of trees and shrubs (Figure 5).

Subsequent searching on the internet revealed that there is a warning about the overgrown nature of the area⁵ but nothing more about the sculptor and his works.

“The Three Mysteries of the Mountains” are large ‘sphinx like’ statues, c.2m high, carved from Gosford sandstone⁶. Judge, The Hon. Elizabeth Evatt AC explained that they were commissioned to be created by Saul Munro⁷ in memory of her mother-in-law Mrs Marjorie Evatt Andreas. Work started on them in the spring of 1986⁸ and by April 1987 they were well advanced toward completion⁹. Even before they were finished an American offered to buy them but they were not for sale¹⁰. However that offer suffices to indicate that they are of high monetary value. The quality of Munro’s work can be better assessed in winter when the foliage decreases to the extent that it is possible to take a photograph that reveals the profile of one of the statues (Figure 6.)

Subsequently, Saul Munro also created a mosaic¹¹ that is in front of the Leuralla house and several small sculptures that are in the garden¹².

There is not a lot known about Saul Munro who resides near Windsor. A photograph of him working on these sculptures accompanies the article by Bates¹³ and two more recent images are also available¹⁴.

When the sculptures were being created some local residents contacted the Evatt family to complain that they were “an eyesore” (Anonymous 1986), but surely those minor protests did not lead to the neglect of the area. And there the story ends for the moment as I have not discovered why the surrounding bush has been allowed to grow and overwhelm the sculptures.

Peter C Rickwood

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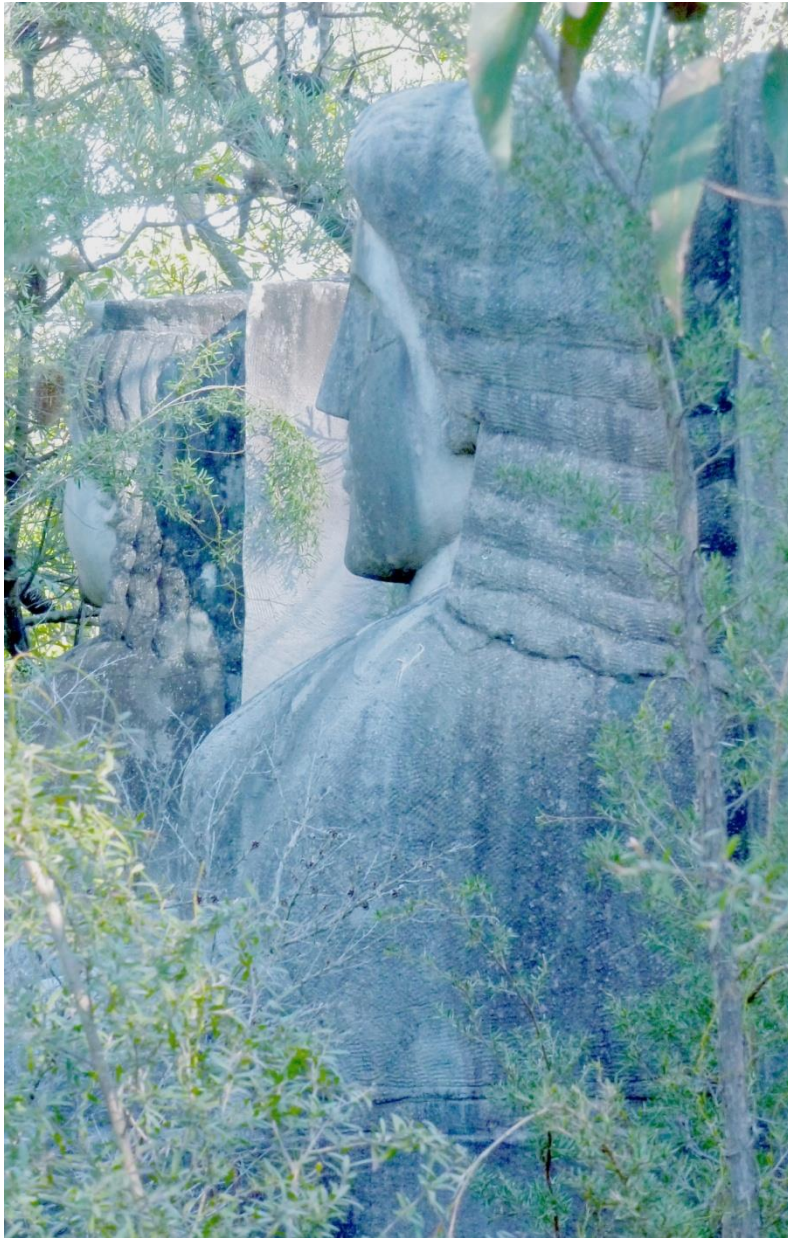


Figure 6. A profile of one statue
Photo: Peter Rickwood July 2015

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Emu Plains Railway Station and Stationmaster's Residence

When the railway came to Emu Plains the first train crossed the bridge in June 1867. One year later the Emu Plains Railway Station was opened on the south side of the Bathurst Road. Subsequently this building was abandoned and a new railway station building and station master's residence was opened in November 1886. A telegraph office was opened at the station a year later.



Platform facade

Emu Plains is located on the western banks of the Nepean River at the foot of the Blue Mountains. It has many historic buildings and sites, which date back to the first settlement. The river and the mountain range bounded the new colony to the west and a mere trickle of movement ventured beyond these topographical features at first.

The sighting of emus on the river flats may have prompted the name in the late 1700's, and may have originated from Watkin Tench in his early exploration of this part of the region.

The name Emu Plains came into use around 1814. The government farm was established here in 1819 by Governor Macquarie, where convicts cleared the land and carried out cultivation of wheat, maize, tobacco and other crops for 13 years. The town of Emu was surveyed for settlers in the early 1830's. By this time a road had been established across the mountains to the Bathurst plains and more land was being sought for expansion of Sydney town. The convict farm was officially closed in 1832 and the land sold.

The river was crossed at first via the ford, and the Emu Ferry. The challenge to bridge the river was thwarted several times by the significant floods which occurred regularly. The final bridge which met the challenge was the Victoria Bridge, a road/rail structure.

The Victoria Bridge was given over to road traffic only in 1907, when a new railway bridge was opened. The line from Penrith was electrified in 1956.

The second railway station building was a two story structure with the stationmaster's residence up stairs. It is one of the oldest railway stations in Australia. A Victorian era Gothic Revival style railway building, it is only one of three remaining metropolitan examples (with Fairfield and Riverstone) of the early custom of providing accommodation for railway staff within the same building as the station facilities, and is the only two storey metropolitan example.



Rear facade



Date panel showing 1863



Bay window



Rear facade



It is constructed of face brick with stone detailed quoins capping and mouldings. The building actually presents two storeys to the platform, and actually three stories to the street frontage. Distinctive features include the steep gabled and parapet slate roof, two medieval style chimneys and fretted motifs on gables. A bay window to the basement and ground levels dominates the eastern facade.

Changes to the building include the incorporation of ticket windows, and door replacements. The stationmaster's residence is accessed from a concrete stairway from the rear.

Inside the original floor layout is retained with minimal changes. Substantial renovation occurred in 2008-2009. Many features were retained such as fire place surrounds, custom orb metal ceiling, lathe and plaster ceilings with ceiling rose, and the timber staircase. Most other original fittings have been removed.

Patsy Moppett

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BMACHO for You

The question has recently arisen as to just what does the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural and Heritage Organisations (BMACHO) have to offer your organisation. An examination of the original aims of the group, as well as a review of activities to date, provides the following:

1. Membership of a well-respected cultural heritage organization.
2. Low membership fees.
3. Opportunities for membership as an organization, or as an individual with particular background/skills/expertise to share.
4. Opportunities for networking through:
 - Workshops and seminars

- Bi-annual Conference
- AGM & Committee meetings (visitors always welcome)
- BMACHO links to outside organizations on the BMACHO database
- 5. Opportunities to promote your organization as a member of BMACHO:
 - Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail, Open Days, brochure and associated web site
 - Regular email distribution from the Committee
 - BMACHO website
 - BMACHO on Facebook
 - The bi-monthly HERITAGE Newsletter
- 6. Opportunities to read about, research and learn about history and heritage:
 - Publication of the annual Blue Mountains Journal
 - Publication of Occasional Papers
 - The bi-monthly HERITAGE Newsletter
 - Workshops and seminars



Heritage Trail functions

BMACHO is always willing to consider feedback from both member and non-member organisations as to how we can assist your group and your members. If you can add to the above, or would like to join, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretary at:

committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au OR j.koperberg@bigpond.com

The Technical Side

The Bodger

In the first of a Rare Trades series we introduce the **bodger**. What on earth is that you ask? The term first appeared in the late 19th century, and may have come from the Middle English *bocchen* which lends a sense of repairing or mending. The origins of the word are not clear, although the craft dates back to the Egyptians and Vikings. The word was also used to describe a rough sack of corn. It may also have been a corruption of the word badger, the badger having dwelt in the woods and seldom emerging until evening.

Bodgers were itinerant wood turners who worked in the beech wood forests of the Chilterns in Buckinghamshire. As their tools were so easy to move, they moved about the countryside rather than set up a permanent workshop. The bodger sometimes camped out in the open woods in a lean-to structure constructed of forest floor lengths suitable for use as poles, lashed together to form a triangular frame for a water proof thatch. It may have been enclosed in a wicker or wattled manner. More often they lived in the nearby village and made their way each day to the woods to work.



Viking pole lathe



Bodger camp



Medieval lathe worker

Most commonly they made chair legs, which were sold to furniture factories for chair making. They turned timber into chair legs by turning it on a pole lathe, an ancient and very simple tool that uses the spring of a bent sapling to help operate it. They used a variety of chisels, sharpening stones and grinding wheels, the spokeshave-like drawknife, a trestle or saw-horse, a coarse saw, mallets, axes and adzes, and a shave horse. They also sold their product as waste for kindling, or as exceptionally durable woven baskets.

They were one of the craftsmen associated with the making of the traditional country Windsor chair. English bodgers made chair legs and stretchers for the Windsor chairs, which were assembled at High Wycombe, England.

Bodging was a job of necessity using whatever tools and materials came to hand, which although not necessarily elegant, was nevertheless serviceable.

Today's bodger can be seen demonstrating at fairs and markets, workshops and field days. The skills and tools are retained by a specialised few, who take pride in creating timber objects for practical use and creativity.



Bodger and his tools at recent Yetholme History Day



Pole lathe



Tools of the trade



Spoke-shave

The Leura Bodger, Roy Davi, was recently seen in action at a workshop near Mudgee. Roy is a pole lathe greenwood turner and furniture maker. He conducts weekend courses to share his trade, where you might simply observe the making of wood turned furniture and

utensils, utilise Roy's lathes and tools to make your own pieces, or even attempt to make your own pole lathe.

Roy may be contacted for classes or demonstrations at roy.davi@y7mail.com

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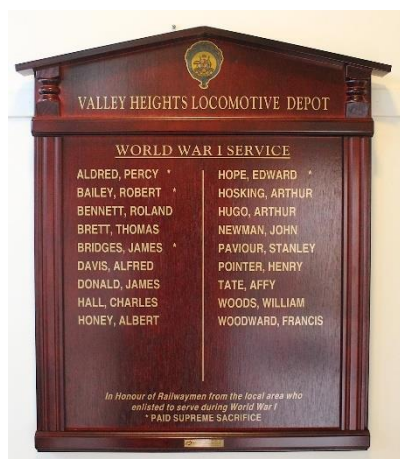
Rare Trades, Mark Thompson 2002

Community events & updates

Unveiling the Honour Board at Valley Heights

On Wednesday 7 October 2015 the Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum (VHLDhM) held an unveiling of an Honour Board at the Museum, to commemorate railwaymen from the local area who enlisted for World War 1.

A welcome was given by VHLDHM Chairman, Bruce Coxon, who handed over to Keith Ward, the VHLDHM Publicity Officer. Keith had lead a number of volunteers in the research for the Honour Board, with the help of *Remembrance - Springwood and District Honor Roll 1914 – 1919*, by Shirley Evans and Pamela Smith, Springwood Historians, published in 2008. Both Shirley and Pamela were in the audience and their work was acknowledged.



The Honour Board



Keith Ward & Louise Markus MP Macquarie

Keith spoke about the 'Connections' and the families of the men who served. He had researched the men thoroughly, along with other volunteers, and found it quite an emotional experience. He spoke warmly and respectfully about the men. Descendants of Thomas Brett and Albert Honey were present and both families had a representative speak about their ancestor, after the unveiling.

The Honour Board was unveiled by Louise Markus MP Macquarie, with speeches following Louise, by Trish Doyle MP Blue Mountains, Pamela Smith, historian, and the descendants. A copy of *Remembrance – Springwood and District Honor Roll 1914 – 1919* was made available for signing by all present on the day and is to be kept at the Museum.

After the ceremony, there was a guided tour of the VHLDH Museum, followed by a light lunch.

The Honour Board now hangs proudly in the Museum!

Jan Koperberg



Descendants of Allbert Honey & Thomas Brett Descendants of Albert Honey with Locomotive 3214

Sculptures at Scenic World

An exhibition is to be held between 8 April and 8 May 2016 at Scenic World, Katoomba, entitled *Sculpture at Scenic World*. This is Australia's only annual rainforest exhibition and incorporates the only prize of its kind in an Australian rainforest. The site is a Jurassic rainforest, part of the World Heritage listed Blue Mountains National Park. The exhibition manager, Justin Morrissey, advises that artists will create work in a very unique environment, to receive significant installation support and advice, and have their work judged by some of Australia's most influential and talented professionals. The exhibition is set to provide an unforgettable experience for visitors, recognizing that artists play the most pivotal part in providing that experience.



The judging panel has been announced, and includes Dr Felicity Fenner, Michael Snelling and Claire Healy. For more information visit www.scenicworld.com.au/sculpture

Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (MAAS), Regional Stakeholder Forum 2015

This year's forum will provide updates on issues affecting the regional heritage sector, discuss regional tourism and museums, crowdfunding, and the role of consultants, and how the arts can "activate" and energise your museum.

This annual forum is an opportunity for the regional museums and collections sector to get together, discuss current topics and be inspired by new ideas.

The forum will be welcomed by Rose Hiscock, Director of MAASA, and a wide range of speakers will address the forum including Vic McEwan, Andrew Gray, Caroline Downer, Michael Brealey, Harlan Hall, Elliott Bledsoe, Brett Dunlop, Debbie Sommers, Kevin Williams, Marcus Hughes, Fiona McDonald and Jackie Hemsley. Many of these presenters are from regional areas.



Forum 2014

The forum will be held on Friday 13 November 2015, from 9am to 4pm at the Powerhouse Museum, L2 Theatrette, 500 Harris Street, Ultimo. Participation is free, but bookings are essential as places are strictly limited.

Book through www.maas.museum

Cox's Road Walk

The Macquarie Society will be walking a part of the original Cox's Road on Saturday 14 November 2015, as part of their continuing celebrations of Governor Macquarie crossing the Blue Mountains 200 years ago. This is a unique opportunity to walk the road much of it over private property.



Cox's Pass



Mount York Cemetery

Walkers will meet at the old Hartley School, Mid Hartley Road, Little Hartley, at 10am for morning tea, and a bus will then take walkers to the Mount York Lookout. Starting at the top of Mount York you will walk down the original Cox's Pass into the Hartley valley and follow the original road over private property to the Mount York cemetery. The bus will pick you up there for lunch.

In the afternoon you will continue to follow the original road westwards across private property to the River Lett at Glenroy Crossing. Glenroy is where the Cox's River and the River Lett join and where Governor Macquarie held the first church service west of the mountains. The bus will meet you there for transport back to Hartley School.

The first part of this walk is quite steep and rough in spots but is all downhill and then level from the bottom. The morning walk is 6kms taking 2 ½ hours.

The second half, after lunch, follows the original road across private property which is open grazing land with magnificent views of the mountains all around. The afternoon walk is 6kms also taking 2 ½ hours, finishing about 4.30pm.

You will need good walking shoes. Reasonable fitness is all that is required. This event has been organised by the Hartley Valley Progress Association. Ramsay and Susie Moodie and other locals of the area, will lead the walk.

Don't miss out!

Please confirm your place by sending funds (\$65 per person) with your name attached to:

- Bank of New South Wales Lane Cove: BSB 032085 Account Number 408924
- or post by cheque to Hon. Treasurer, Rosemary Taylor, 8 Matthews Avenue, Lane Cove. 2066 rosemarytaylor10@gmail.com Cheques payable to The Macquarie Society Inc.

Source: Patrick Dodd, President, The Macquarie Society

More Colonial Road Walks

Glenbrook & District Historical Society intend to hold walks on historic sections of the Cox's Road in 2016.

- 26 March 2016: Three short return walks on the three most historic roads to the west, Cox's Pass 1815, Lawson's Long Alley 1822, and Berghofer's Pass 1909. These walks are located at Mount York and the day will commence at 9am. Cost is \$12.00 including morning tea, and would be led by Doug Knowles and Frank Bowman.



Lawson's Long Alley



Berghofer's Pass

- 25 June 2016: A walk along a section of the historic Cox's Road following the ridge-top from Linden to Woodford trig. The walk would commence at 1.30pm. The cost is \$8.00 per person and the walk would be led by Doug Knowles and Frank Bowman.

Bookings are essential through Doug on P: 02 4751 3275, for details regarding meeting place, time and grade of walk. Good walking shoes are essential, as well as a hat and drinking water.

Source: Glenbrook Points, Glenbrook & District Historical Society, October-November 2015

Volunteers Wanted - Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum

Volunteers are required to work in the Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Depot Museum Shop. Some experience with cash handling, catering, food handling or customer service would be an advantage but is not essential. All training will be provided.

The role involves ticket sales to customers, retails sales of the Museum's range of souvenirs and memorabilia, as well as refreshments including tea/coffee and light snacks. They are looking for diligent and reliable people with a friendly outgoing nature who like dealing with people.



The Museum is open on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, as well as additional Sundays during public holidays from 10am to 4pm. Volunteers working in the shop would be expected to be available from 8.30am to approximately 4.30pm on open days. They will be expected to be available to be rostered every 2nd or 3rd open day.

If you feel you could fulfil this voluntary opportunity and would be interested in trying something new, please contact their Retail Manager, Steve Corrigan on 4759 1980 or sjc_alco@pnc.com.au

2015 RAHS Conference

The Royal Australian Historical Society Conference was held at the Bankstown Sports Club on 24-25 October with a theme of "Migration Matters".

The Conference explored the importance of migration history, provided skills that will support history projects and provided opportunities to network and share histories with RAHS members and friends.



Families in a new country

Bankstown is one of the most ethnically diverse communities in Australia with over 60 different languages spoken. The Conference made the most of local knowledge by working with Bankstown City Council, Bankstown Historical Society and Bankstown Family History Group.

Heritage awards and grants were presented to a wide range of projects across the State, and a fascinating variety of speakers addressed the group.

Speakers included:

- David Hill, (Director ABC, Chair Australian Football Association, and many other significant executive appointments and chair positions). Hill was also a "Fairbridge kid", coming from England to Australia in 1959 under the Fairbridge Farm School

Child Migrant scheme. He is also an author. David Hill detailed his experiences as a child migrant, in an emotional address to the spell bound audience.

- Sue Rosen: The immigrant experience in Bankstown.
- Tim Carroll: Springboard – oral histories as the base for new projects and new audiences.
- Ann Parry: Connecting your history with local schools.
- Liz Rushen: The government's hand in nineteenth century migration to Australia.
- Bruce Pennay: Seeing migration matter locally.
- Judith Dunn: Every migrant has a story.
- Sarah-Jane Rennie: The importance of heritage significance.
- Paul McPherson: The other side of collecting: refusing, replacing and de-accessioning historical material.
- Jean Winston: Experiences in understanding a significance assessment and its benefits.
- Wayne Peake: The Peake family of Peakhurst and the Georges River district 1811-1996: impressions and sketches.
- Linda Myring & Eleanor Menton: Migrant experience, and an Asian teacher in a new country.
- Ben Mercer: The migrant in all of us – DNA tests.



The Conference provided a view of migration which is demonstrated across many districts in the State, and prompted reflection by all attendees on their own backgrounds and experiences.

Patsy Moppett

Charles Darwin's Illness – his Wedgewood Family Inheritance

On Saturday, November 7, the Blue Mountains Historical Society monthly meeting and public lecture will be presented by Dr John Hayman. His topic is ***Charles Darwin's Illness- His Wedgewood Family Inheritance.***

For much of his adult life, Charles Darwin's health was compromised by an uncommon combination of symptoms leaving him severely debilitated for long periods of time. However, in some ways this may have helped his work, and Charles Darwin himself wrote, "Even ill-health, though it has annihilated several years of my life, has saved me from the distractions of society and amusement."

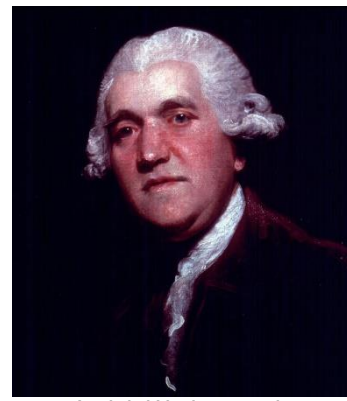
The cause of Darwin's illness has been frequently examined by medical researchers since his death.



Erasmus Darwin



Charles Darwin



Josiah Wedgwood

Dr Hayman, a pathologist from the University of Melbourne, has presented a case that Darwin's symptoms indicate that he suffered from cyclic vomiting syndrome, an illness associated with mitochondrial DNA abnormalities.

Dr Hayman's paper on the topic was accepted by *The BMJ* and the *Medical Journal of Australia*, and was published in December 2009. In a supplement published in February 2012, he proposed that stroke-like episodes of memory loss and partial paralysis which do not occur with CVS are characteristic of the MELAS syndrome.

Dr Hayman's talk will explore the connection between Darwin, his Wedgwood family and this debilitating illness.

Dr Hayman will address society members and interested guests at the Blue Mountains History Association's rooms at 99 Blaxland Rd, Wentworth Falls, on Saturday 7 November 2015 at 10.30 a.m. Ph: 0419 985 546. Morning tea is available from 10.00am.

Robyne Ridge

Source: Blue Mountains Historical Society

Standards Program – Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park & Museum

Readers will recall the article on Succession Planning in *Heritage* which referred to the Museums and Galleries' Standards Program, in Issue 38 May-June 2015.

On 7th August 2015, the Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park and Museum availed themselves of the services of the Standards Program and a field visit was undertaken by Reviewers, Sarah Jane Brazil and Sam Malloy. A report was produced on the current operations of the Museum and the initiatives already undertaken by the management committee.



Workshops



Bath House



State Mine Office

The management committee took the Reviewers through the various aspects of the museum including grants secured, interpretive signage, the visitors' centre displays and collections, the bathhouse building space, banner display, spectravision display and the workshops. The Reviewers' report discussed conservation management, marketing and interpretation, and made a number of recommendations toward the ongoing success of this museum. Such recommendations included matters such as collection management, a Disaster Management Plan, targeting seniors groups, and story boards for the use of the various rooms in the State Mine Office building.

On Thursday 5 November 2015 a planning & feedback session will be held at the Museum to discuss the outcomes of the Report, from 9:30am to 3:30pm. Any key stakeholders in the project are most welcome to attend and participate in planning discussions.

Contact: Ray Christison, President

www.statemine.org.au

0419 438 609

BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

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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 Family History Society Inc; Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute; Bygone Beautys Treasured Teapot Museum and Tearooms. Eskbank Rail Heritage Centre; Everglades Historic House & Gardens; Norman Lindsay Gallery; Glenbrook & District Historical Society Inc; Hartley Valley District Progress Association; Hawkesbury 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); National Trust of Australia (NSW) – Blue Mountains Branch; National Trust of Australia (NSW) – Lithgow Branch; Nepean District Historical Society Inc; Paragon Cafe, 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: Fiona Burn, Ray Christison, Associate Professor Ian Jack, Joan Kent, Ian Milliss, Patsy Moppett, Professor Barrie Reynolds, Dr Peter Rickwood and Dr Peter Stanbury OAM.

Committee: The management committee for 2015-2016 (from April 2015) is: Patsy Moppett (President and *Heritage* Newsletter Editor), Ian Jack (Vice President), Jan Koperberg (Secretary), Philip Hammon (Treasurer), Roy Bennett (Grants Application Officer), Scott Pollock and Wendy Hawkes (web site), Dick Morony (Public Officer/Membership Secretary/ Calendar Editor), Suzanne Smith and Louise Vining (Events and Venue Co-ordinators).

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.