

# *Heritage*

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## **Course de Circuit Hartley**

Following on from the previous issue of Heritage, another local racing circuit was located in the Hartley Valley, south east of Lithgow. It operated from approximately 1910 to 1938, although these dates are uncertain. It ceased at the beginning of WWII and never restarted, as by then the Mount Panorama circuit had opened. The course was 6.035km (3.75 miles) in length and went in a clockwise direction. Buses conveyed people from Lithgow at a cost of 4/- return. The original racing surface is long gone, the track is now partly bitumen and partly gravel, and the existing roads still follow the original route.



Used mostly for motorbikes and sidecars, it hosted the Tourist Trophy and other events on Anniversary Day January 26 each year. After each event many farm fences required restraining as spectators sat on the fences to watch!

It was a very fast circuit with the Hartley Vale Road and Browns Gap Road sections being reasonably straight, flat and about 2 kilometres in length. The Mid Hartley Road section was somewhat more challenging with blind crests and two very fast sweeping corners. There were three corners that caused more accidents than any other part of the circuit. Mount York Corner, A. Butta's Corner and J. Morris' Corner, being almost hairpins, creating a sudden end to the long straights.

In 1924 the event was reported to have a good attendance and good racing. The events held were the 50 miles under 600cc, 25 miles sidecar handicap, 50 miles handicap all powers, and the 25 miles open championship.

In 1925 Blaxland Shire Council placed a veto on road racing which, if enforced, would have prevented the January carnival from taking place. The Council was approached to have the restriction relaxed. Club representatives met with the Council to discuss the veto, at Mr Bird's shop days before the scheduled carnival, and the carnival was able to go ahead with a record number of entries (83 for the four solo events).

The sidecar event was not held as there were only two competitors. The crowd swelled to 1,500 people, and AJS machines secured first in all events. Other bikes featured included New Imperial, BSA, Douglas, Harley Davidson and Norton.



The 1925 event included the 25 mile State Championship, and the State's best riders were competing. The first race commenced at 9.30am, and the event included luncheon on the grounds. The President of the Lithgow MCC at the time was G Smith, and the Honorary Secretary was PE Farthing. Entrants included Tom O'Dea, Gus Clifton and Stewart Williams. The Lithgow Mercury reported that the course was again very safe and maintained its reputation of not having a serious accident in 15 years. Events included the 25 mile novice handicap, the 25 miles (500cc and under), the 100 mile (all powers) handicap, and the State Championship.

In the State Championship, a novel scheme was introduced to prevent crowding at the start. There were 18 entries, but only nine faced the starter. The first division was allowed halfway around the course before the second was started.

In 1926 the annual carnival was again held, although numbers were affected by big events at Maroubra speedway, and an idea on the part of many metropolitan riders, that the Blaxland Shire would not sanction racing over the course.



The large trees in the vicinity of the starting point at "Stormville", owned by Mr R Jones, afforded shade for spectators and competitors, many picnicing under the trees. Mrs Jones served a nice lunch at the homestead. The president was Mr G Tyrer, and the Honorary Secretary was Mr Roy Boon. Major incidents were avoided other than a few spills which resulted in gravel rash. Unfortunately, the biggest event, the 100 mile handicap, was marred by a large bushfire which developed across a portion of the road. The riders persisted and the event was not cancelled, but reduced in length to 25 miles so the riders did not have to pass through the smoke too often!

The following years would prove just as difficult to organise the event, with the 1927 meet being the last for nine years. In 1936, motorcycles returned to the circuit with the event being eventually discontinued.

The large tree on what is now the corner of Browns Gap Road and Fields Road, was often an obstacle and the route was diverted to the northern side of the tree to minimise mishaps.



Later in 1936, the Tourist Trophy was held on January 27 and attracted several thousand people. Three accidents marred the day but no one was seriously hurt, although hospitalisation was required in all three cases. The Mount York corner claimed one victim, when the chassis of a sidecar collapsed, hurling the rider into the fence. The passenger escaped injury. The events held were the Junior Tourist Trophy (under 350cc), Lightweight Championship Scratch Race (under 250cc), Lithgow Handicap (all powers sidecars), NSW Senior TT Championship (all powers) and the Blaxland Handicap (all power solo). In 1937 the Blaxland Shire Council refused permission for road closures, and the event was moved to 3 January 1938, with practice held the previous weekend. Management of the races eventually was given over to the Western Suburbs Club. One bizarre story reported by Old Bike Australasia involved the Italian man who ran the provisions stall from his front yard. He was found murdered, and several local youths were arrested. They believed that he had a stash of cash in his house, which proved to be quite false.

*Patsy Moppett*

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*Lithgow Mercury, 28 January 1936*

*Recollections of Chris Bird*

*Recollections of Michael Coomb*

*General research by Rohan Moppett*

*Tracks in Time, Hartley Vale, Old Bike Australasia May-June 2010*

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

With the Christmas season on us again already, I will not regale you with deep and meaningful philosophical thoughts on history and on heritage conservation! There are too many exciting events coming up over the Christmas break and many intriguing conferences and forums in 2017 to look forward to, which will enable the community to make its own observations on the past, and to make decisions about future directions of heritage. The BMACHO Committee hope you enjoy the selection of articles in this issue, where a variety of topics has been researched to entertain members and non-members over the Christmas break.



*Kamloops Heritage Railway Steam Train, British Colombia*

We hope you enjoy the content of *Heritage* No. 47 as much as we enjoy presenting it to you. We always welcome articles from the community, so would encourage these at any time. Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year! Looking forward to sharing heritage in 2017!

### ***Centenary of The Paragon***

The Blue Mountains Historical Society has joined with lessee Robyn Parker and Friends of the Paragon to celebrate the centenary of this iconic Katoomba business.

Fifteen year old Greek Zacharias Simos arrived in Sydney on 13 May, 1912 per Omrah (Orient Line), worked in a Greek café in Tenterfield for 18 months, then in Sydney for 2½ years<sup>i</sup> before leasing the 1909 Katoomba building housing the “Devonshire Tea Room” in 1916.

He was joined later by brothers Peter, and George, a confectioner. The tea room became The Paragon Café and Oyster Palace, and specialised in late suppers for patrons after evening dances and shows. Patrons included many affluent holiday makers who stayed at The Carrington or The Ritz at Leura. Simos grasped the opportunity to develop the niche market. His first advertisement<sup>ii</sup> was as Z Simos & Co., Proprietors.



Grocers in upper mountains towns delivered locally on set days, but not broadly across the mountains, with perishable goods such as oysters and lobsters. He set a standard, challenging others to follow. Following Simos' business names can be a challenge too. There have been many changes over the past century but The Paragon has continued at the same site. Zacharias, known as Jack, took many risks but seems to have had an uncanny ability to foresee and capitalise on business opportunities. Once he owned the building, he set about fitting out the upstairs area for accommodation, an office, storage area, a bakery, and a chocolate factory, the latter run by brother George. Business expanded rapidly. In addition to the culinary delights and late night service, Jack enhanced visitors' experience over the years by what could be simply called decorating the walls and developing specialist rooms. He travelled through Europe for a year or so, seeking out the best the world had to offer at that time. Nothing less than the best would do for his business in the relatively small holiday town of Katoomba in the Blue Mountains. One can only wonder what the locals thought of his early endeavours!



*The café area*

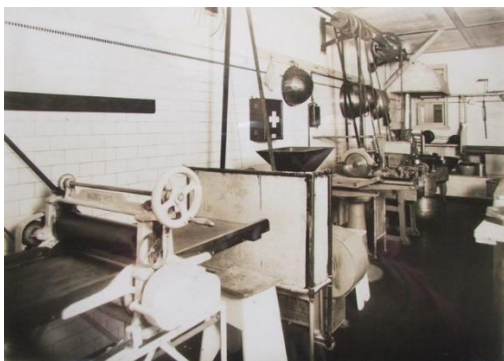


*The chocolate selection 2016*

In 1921 The Paragon was advertised as a Sundae and Candy Shop by Z Simos, Proprietor. The celebration of the official opening of the dance room in conjunction with the Paragon Sundae Shop was a major event in Katoomba and was highly praised. Guests were delighted by the modern architecture still with the comforts they enjoyed, the decorations, mirrors and the attention to detail. Local Radio 2KA broadcast from The Paragon and The Katoomba Daily<sup>iii</sup> wrote a rave review. In addition, they raised funds for Shuna, the Red Cross Home for Girls.

His promotions emphasised the products made in the store including chocolates, peanut brittle and many other goodies. In 1924 Jack purchased the property freehold<sup>iv</sup> and began the development of accommodation, office, chocolate factory, bakery and storage rooms upstairs.

In 1926 he was ready to refit the Tea Room into a Viennese Style Café. Jack employed the best shop fitting designers available, Harry and Ernest Sidgreaves (Ltd). His focus was on locating the best and latest, so travelled through Europe in 1929.



*Machinery upstairs (photo courtesy) Robyn Parker*



*Banquet hall 2016*

He met American born Greek Maria Panaretos in Kythera where she was holidaying with her parents. They married in USA in 1930 and returned to Australia. Maria, (Mary) a calm, very capable lady was an asset to the business with her welcoming manner and practical approach.

Jack employed the creative theatre architect, G N Kenworthy, as designer for the two back rooms. The Banquet Hall, with its Pre-Columbian decoration, was completed in 1934 and the Ocean Liner style Blue Room completed in 1936. Dr Ian Jack's well illustrated article on The Paragon was published by BMACHO and can be accessed online as BMACHO History Journal No. 5, pages 1 to 12.

In 1937 Jack was a foundation member of the Katoomba Rotary Club, the first on the Blue Mountains, and made The Paragon available for meetings. It was just part of his ongoing community service.

The situation was very different with the outbreak of WW2<sup>v</sup> as the whole population was affected and although 70 years have passed many families still live or have connections with mountains residents. In 1939 the Australian Government played down the possibility of war to minimise panic, while at the same time was preparing bills to be introduced immediately if, or when, war was declared. Within a week the Federal Parliament had met and implemented the National Security Bill, imposed censorship of the press, introduced categories of goods to be price controlled and other severe measures. Further restrictions were announced in the following week.

In 1940, at the start of WW2, Jack and Mary Simos selected architect G N Kenworthy to design a home for them at 12 Narrow Neck Road, Katoomba. At the same time Jack was involved in some way with the formation of The Paragon at Goulburn about 1940. Australia was already sending food to Britain as well as to Australian forces overseas, and was increasingly supplying food to the United States, British, Dutch and Free French navies in the Pacific. Australia's population of 7 million was producing food for 13 million ... and this continued to 1945 and beyond.

Rationing was introduced to meet the demand as fairly as possible. The term rationing was originally used only for goods for which coupons as well as money were required. Clothing was first, on 24 June 1942, then tea. Australia was a nation of tea drinkers but when the Japanese overran Malaya that source ceased. Neither India nor Ceylon could make up the shortfall and shipping was unavailable even if the tea was. Tea coupon rationing was introduced on 6 July 1942 when the amount set was 1.5 ounces (56g) per person for five weeks. In effect it allowed for 2 or 3 cups of tea per day for all over 9 years of age. There are still locals who remember mother drying used tea leaves in the oven to eke out the tea further. There were relatively minor changes in quantities of rationed foods and drinks at times. This was followed by coupons for sugar and butter – all lasting until after the war was over. Supplies may or may not arrive on time, or even at all.

There were special instructions for registered businesses that provided casual meals such as The Paragon. The coupon system had to be met, not only for tea, but also sugar from 29 August and for butter on 7 June 1943. That was the first Australian produced food to be

rationed, followed by meat on 14 January 1944. Each had to meet the coupon system<sup>vi</sup> and lasted for years after the war.

Yet the family, and their employees, met the challenges through all those years.

In 1947 the Simos employed the Danish sculptor, Otto Steen, to carve 12 alabaster friezes to be attached to the maple-wood walls of the dining room, thus changing to a Greek theme. The Art Deco style classical Grecian figures in bas-relief are just one of the Paragon's treasures.

The Paragon continued to flourish under the Simos family in the ever changing conditions of the post war period. The years were catching up, Jack died in 1976 and Mary carried on.

Their son Theodore, a lawyer, was concerned that she was not coping well and approached Stuart Chandler to "run" the business. This he did from 1977 to 1982 and he has generously told us more about her at the time. In Stuart's words: *"My memories of Mary are of a generous and welcoming person who showed great pride in the business and her husband's achievements. Although she left me to manage the day to day operations, she still worked seven days a week, serving chocolates and bakery goods behind the counter. She made coffees and often set up the window display of cream cakes, scones and pastries early each morning. However, Mary was best known for the warm way she greeted customers, personally seating many of them in the café. Even at her age, she rarely stopped for a break and would often be seen sitting near the counter, wrapping the freshly made famous Waratah Chocolate Bars in foil or the individual pieces of nougat in rice paper."*

The Paragon was recognised by The National Trust and placed on the Australian Heritage Commission's 1977 Register of the National Estate.

The Simos era ended with Mary's passing in 2001.

On Sunday 28 August, Sunday 25 September and Saturday 1 October 2016 there was the opportunity to find out more about parts of The Paragon not seen, the industrial activities undertaken upstairs, and further information on both the early Viennese style decoration and the later Art Deco for which the building is renowned. Who were the designers? When and why did they change to Art Deco style? Many changes have occurred over the century including fashions, worn by brides at their weddings at The Paragon. You can follow more of the story on the Facebook sites, Blue Mountains Historical Society, Tarella Cottage Museum and Friends of The Paragon.



*Friends of the Paragon meet to celebrate the inclusion of the café on the State Heritage Register in 2015*

This was a rare opportunity to find out about the equipment of yesteryear, what they were and how they were used. Friends of the Paragon were present to point out key features and answer questions. The Exhibition was held in the Tarella Cottage Museum, in the grounds of Blue Mountains Historical Society, 99 Blaxland Road, Wentworth Falls from 10am to 4pm.

*Linsi Braith & Joan Edwards*

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<sup>1</sup> NAA

<sup>2</sup> 15 September 1916

<sup>3</sup> *The Katoomba Daily*, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 1935.

<sup>4</sup> *Katoomba Rate Assessment Book*

<sup>5</sup> *WW2 from Mums, Children & Mustard Gas*, Joan & Chris Edwards 2016

<sup>6</sup> *Melbourne Commonwealth Rationing Commission* 1950

### **Mrs. Wilhelmina Dunmore Lang**

The number of famous people who have visited the Blue Mountains must be both indeterminable and huge yet few are known to have died there whilst visiting. Just three spring to mind. Sir Edmund Barton, who died of heart failure in the Belgravia wing of the Hydro Majestic Hotel, Medlow Bath, at 9.00 a.m. on 7 January 1920<sup>1</sup> and then almost four decades later there was Professor V. Gordon Childe, who committed suicide by falling from Barrow Lookout, Blackheath on 19 October 1957<sup>2</sup>. But long before those there was Mrs. Wilhelmina Lang, the widow of the Rev. J. Dunmore Lang, who had the misfortune to die at *Heatherton*, Blackheath on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 1891 of influenza<sup>3</sup>.

#### **Wilhelmina Lang (née Mackie)**

Wilhelmina was born in Greenock, Scotland on 24 September 1812<sup>4</sup> (Figure 2) the daughter of William and Mary Mackie and *“when she was eighteen she sailed for Australia, under the care of Dr. Lang, at that time distinguished for his active labours in the interests of religion and civilisation.”*<sup>5</sup>.

The background to this lady gives an insight to some of the moral standards of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Presbyterians for 18 year-old Wilhelmina Mackie had left Scotland with her cousin the Rev. Lang (Figure 1) who was 13 years older, and *“Rev. Lang was escorting his cousin Wilhelmina Mackie to Sydney to marry his brother, Andrew. However, he persuaded her to marry him whilst on board the ship ‘Stirling Castle’ in Simon’s Bay, Cape of Good Hope on the 25<sup>th</sup> August, 1831.”*<sup>6</sup>.

It is said that she married him at *“Cape Town to avoid opposition from Lang’s mother, anticipated because of the difference in their ages.”*<sup>7</sup> The matriarch, Mary Lang (née Dunmore), is said to have *“had formidable powers of moral indignation and such capacity for vituperation that in comparison her son’s most savage strictures seemed but a mild remonstrance.”*<sup>9</sup>.

Nevertheless, it seems incredible that Wilhelmina’s parents (William and Mary Mackie) would have let a teenaged, vulnerable, inexperienced, spinster travel alone with a male

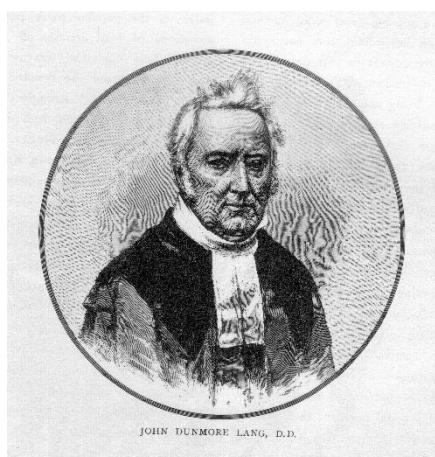


Figure 1. John Dunmore Lang, D.D.<sup>8</sup>



Figure 2. Mrs J. Dunmore Lang, ca 1880s

cousin, albeit that her escort was deeply religious. Seemingly at that time it was not deemed outrageous for young girls to be shipped off to distant parts of the globe to marry cousins but

one has to wonder what Andrew Lang thought of his brother for 'stealing' his bride-to-be. Clearly in the matter of love the Rev. Lang proved to be unscrupulous.

The *Stirling Castle* left Greenock on 1 June 1831 and arrived at Sydney on Thursday 13 October 1831 the couple being correctly listed as "Rev. Dr. Lang and Mrs. Lang" <sup>10</sup>. "They took up their residence at No.11 Jamieson-street, Sydney, ... and which remained the home of his venerable widow till within four days of the end." <sup>11</sup>.

It was not a long street (now spelled Jamison) so that residence on the southern side was close to his Scots Presbyterian Church. The marriage was long and successful for they produced ten or eleven children (the count varies); two daughters were named Wilhelmina, the first died in 1845 aged just 6 weeks and was replaced by a second Wilhelmina in 1851 although she lasted just 15 months.

The Reverend John D. Lang pre-deceased his wife on 8 August 1878 and Wilhelmina (Figure 2) had been a widow for 13 years when she died on 6 October 1891<sup>12</sup> aged 78 having outlived at least six of her many children. Her body was taken down to Sydney promptly, supposedly on the mid-day train of the following day<sup>13</sup>, for her funeral service was at 1.30 p.m. on Wednesday 7 October 1891 at the Scots Church although that cannot be correct; at that time<sup>14</sup> to arrive in Sydney for a 1:30 p.m. funeral it would have been necessary to catch the 8:08 a.m. train which arrived at 11.10 a.m. as the following 1:15 p.m. train did not arrive until 4:30 p.m. Interment followed in the family vault<sup>15</sup> at the Devonshire Street Presbyterian Cemetery<sup>16</sup> but when that ground was reclaimed for the Central Railway Station the remains must have been removed to Rookwood (grave 2307, Presbyterian Section, Rookwood Cemetery<sup>17</sup> (Figure 3).

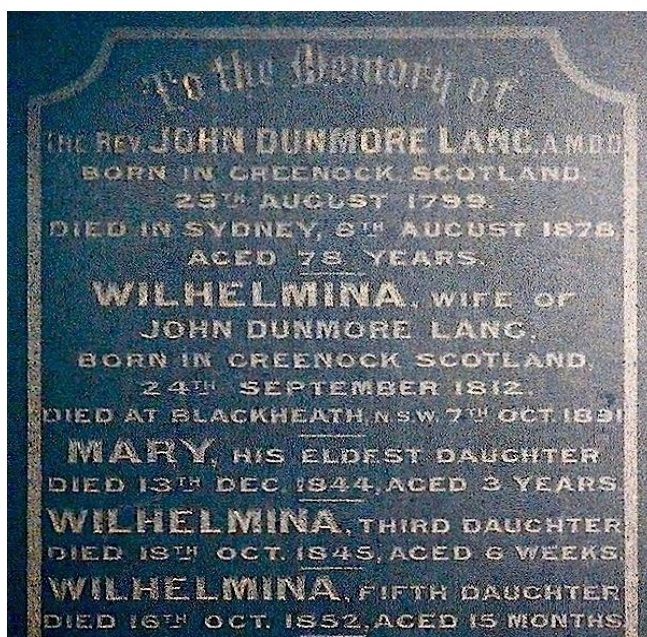


Figure 3. Lang Family, Rookwood Cemetery (Photo Peter Rickwood May 2012)  
[The date of death is wrong.]

**Heatherton, 47 Leichhardt Street, Blackheath. (SHI 1170325)**

"A single storey house with a steeply pitched gabled roof with intersecting gables on the north and south sides. The house faces north overlooking a large garden." "Heatherton is a good representative example of a substantial Victorian Rustic Gothic residence. While this style is seen in the Blue Mountains in the extant gatekeeper's cottages, it is less common in privately built residences." <sup>18</sup>.

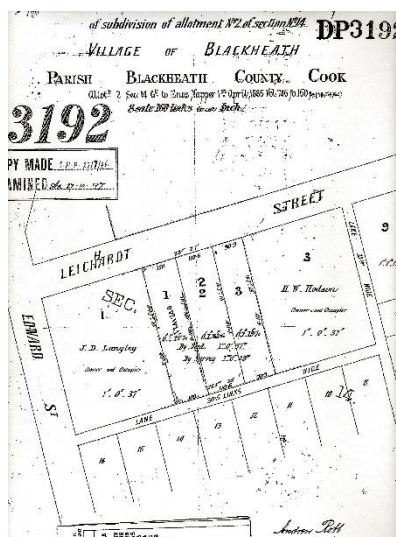


Figure 4. Part of DP 3192<sup>19</sup>



Figure 5. Heatherton<sup>20</sup>

Section 14, Lot 1 (bounded by Leichhardt Street, Prince Edward Street and Prince George Lane; DP3192<sup>21</sup> (Figure 4)) was bought by the Reverend John Douse Langley on 1 April 1885<sup>22</sup> and he had a furnished cottage constructed which was advertised for renting in October 1887<sup>23</sup>.

*"The house was built as a mountain retreat for the Anglican Bishop of Bathurst. Since St. Aidan's Anglican Church was within the Diocese of Sydney, the Leichhardt Street House was simply a holiday home for the Bathurst Bishop."*<sup>24</sup>

With her clerical connections Wilhelmina Lang was almost certainly at Blackheath for a holiday when she died<sup>25</sup>.

By the end of 1897 a school known as *Heatherton*<sup>26</sup> was operating in premises at 47 Leichhardt Street, Blackheath. Previously it had been called *Tusculum* a property which had been advertised as a *"large Furn. Cot., 4 min. station"*<sup>27</sup> so the School seems to have relocated further from the village centre to *Heatherton*. The school catered for *"Delicate children will have special attention, and elder girls taught Cookery and other home duties."*<sup>28</sup>

Seemingly, Miss Rebecca Darling, formerly Principal of St Catherine's School Waverley (1891-1895), advertised for the last time in 1900<sup>29</sup> with the enticement *"Bracing climate and thorough education."*

In 1962 the land was subdivided<sup>30</sup>, *Heatherton* (Figure 5) being on Lot 1, the largest of seven, and extending from Leichhardt Street to Prince George Lane. *Heatherton* is set close to the middle of the block so from Leichhardt Street it is hidden from view behind a row of high bushes.

Peter C. Rickwood

#### Abbreviations:

BMCC = Blue Mountains City Council

CT = Certificate of Title

NSWBDM = New South Wales Births, Deaths and Marriages

NSWOE&H = NSW Office of Environment & Heritage

SAG = Society of Australian Genealogists

SHI = State Heritage Inventory

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## **Dirk Hartog – 400 Years Celebration 1616 – 2016**

The landing of Dutch East India Company (VOC) Captain Dirk Hartog at Cape Inscription WA in his ship the *Eendracht*, on 25 October 1616, sailing from the Dutch port of Texel along the Brouwer route, and making landfall on an island in the mouth of the current-day Shark Bay, marked the first formally recorded European contact with Western Australia.

This event has been celebrated by both the Dutch and Australian communities during 2016 with events taking place all over Australia. This 400 year relationship between the two countries has stretched into a connection that stretches far beyond the close political and economic ties.



*Dirk Hartog*



DIRK HARTOG

1616 - 2016

Marking our history,  
celebrating our future.

*Anniversary Logo*



*Pewter plate*

The year was launched in January 2016 with a Dutch orchestral performance in Sydney. On 1 October 2016 a seminar was held at History House, Sydney "In the Wake of Dirk Hartog: The Contribution of Dutch Exploration to Australia's History. The keynote speaker was Dr Edward Duyker OAM, and the day's program also included Paul Brunton OAM, Linda Emery, Dr Karen Entwistle, and Professor Adrien Vickers. Other actions included the creation of replicas of the pewter plate, and installation of interpretive panels at Cape Inscription.

The many events culminated in the commemorative function on 25 October 2016 at Cape Inscription on Dirk Hartog Island, hosted by the WA State Government.



*Painting of the ship Eendracht & fleet by Willem van de Velde II*

When Hartog landed in WA he left behind a pewter plate, realising that it was essential he leave evidence of his visit. He had his crew flatten a pewter dinner plate and engrave details of their trip. This was then nailed to an oak post and set in a rock fissure on the cliff above the beach. This plate is the oldest known European object ever found on Australian soil. The Island was named for Hartog.

*Patsy Moppett*

Further information with regard to the celebrations can be seen at the purpose-built website [www.dirkhartog2016.nl](http://www.dirkhartog2016.nl)

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## ***The Technical Side***

### ***Coopers and Hoopers***

Cooperage or coopering is the ancient craft of barrel making, a rare trade that results in a water-tight, wooden vessel held together by nothing more than the hoops that surround it. The word cooperage also refers to the place or building where the craft takes place. The *cooper* is a person in this trade, who makes and/or repairs utensils, casks, buckets, drums and barrels from wood, but occasionally from other materials (plastics, stainless steel, pallets and corrugated cardboard). The cooper usually learned his trade from a master craftsman over several years.



*Coopers and hoopers at work*

The craft involves making wooden staved vessels, bound together with hoops, and possessing flat ends or heads. The *hooper* was the man who fitted the metal hoops around the barrels or buckets.

Barrels have been used for over 2,000 years, dating back to Roman times, replacing clay pots. The French (the Gauls) claimed to be the first coopers, and there were coopers guilds in the early Middle Ages in France and England.

There were coopers and there were coopers!

- The “dry” or “slack” cooper made containers for dry goods such as cereals, nails and tobacco, which were varnished.
- The “dry-tight cooper” made casks designed to store dry goods in and moisture out. Such as gunpowder and flour.
- The “white” cooper made straight stave containers like wash tubs and buckets which would hold water.
- The “wet” or “tight” cooper made vessels for long term storage and transportation of liquids, such as beer.
- The “general” cooper worked on ships, on the docks and in warehouses, being responsible for cargo while in storage or transit.



*Coopers guilds were common*

Barrels are made much the same as they originally were. Few tools are used, and those included a saw and axe, planes, a croze and knives. Today power tools are sometimes used. Bob Butler worked at the Penfolds Winery back in 2002 in the Barossa Valley. He

explains that they have a great attachment to their tools. They “put them to bed” each night in a pile of wood shavings, so that the wood absorbs any moisture and helps prevent any rust.

The oak wood is carefully chosen and aged, the staves are carefully prepared, and the actual construction quite like the original methods. A skilled cooper could also mend a broken stave without losing the contents.

The choice of wood determined the quality of the end barrel – the age of the trees, the location in which they are grown, and the growing conditions of that area. French, American, Hungarian oaks are mostly used, the choice of which can determine the flavor of the wine, and trees chosen are usually 80-100 years old.

The wood must be straight and knot free, the grain tight and the tannin content high. Once the wood is staved it is stored in tiers exposed to weather and the elements to age and mature for several years.



*The art has changed little*

Once partly complete the barrel is toasted over an open flame to char the inside of the barrel to whatever level of toasting the client requires, and to enable the remaining iron bands to be attached. All measuring is by hand and eye. A barrel does not contain glue or nails or screws.

The terminology in the craft is quite specific, as with other rare trades:

- *Staves* – are created from oak that must be straight, knot-free, and properly aged, they are shaped and fitted together in a precise pattern that will render the finished barrel water-tight.
- *Hoops* are usually metal – steel, copper or iron. The chime hoop is at the outer edges, the quarter hoop is about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the way to the centre, French hoops are between the quarter hoop and the bilge hoop. The bilge hoop goes around the widest part of the barrel.
- *Chime* – the beveled edge at the top and bottom of the barrel where the ends of all the staves come together.
- *Croze* – is the groove that is created at the top and bottom of the barrel staves, created to hold the head. The tool used to make this groove is also called a croze.
- *Head* – is the flat circular top or bottom of the barrel. Each barrel is unique, so each head must be measured and created for the barrel it will fit.



Today the cooper is mostly engaged in barrel making for the wine and spirits industry. In Medieval times, they were often portrayed as fat people, the story being that they needed a large belly to hold the barrel in place! The talent and skill required however, is unmatched today as a manual art form.

Now also used commonly as a surname, the word was derived from Middle Dutch or Middle Low German, originating from the Latin *cupa*, a tun or barrel. A coffin maker was sometimes known as a cooper as well. The namesake has been based therefore, on an ancient trade and art form.

*References:*

*Wikipedia*

[www.woodenbarrelwarehouse.com](http://www.woodenbarrelwarehouse.com)

*Rare Trades – National Museum of Australia*

*Rare Trades, Mark Thompson 2002*

### ***Mystery photo***

BMACHO has been set a challenge to assist the community in identifying some “mystery” photos! The first is a snowman!!! Actually, it is the location of the snowy gent that we need to know!



The writer advises that his mother's first snowman peeps into the photograph, where John Low proposes the location is other than Blackheath. The writer's mother stayed in the mountains for her winter holiday from Adelaide, probably in the early 1940s, and possibly suffering from a broken heart having lost her beau aboard the ill-fated Sydney (sunk 19/11/41).

The photograph is pasted into their family album and captioned in his mother's hand - “*My first & last snowman. Bless him*” and “*Rowena Dunkley's Home, Blackheath, NSW*”. (In the 1936 Electoral Roll, Stan & Rona Dunkley lived at Eveleigh Avenue, Blackheath).

Does the building in the background give us any clues?

*Patsy Moppett*

*Please send any ideas in to BMACHO, to be passed on to the writer.*

Email: [committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au](mailto:committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au) or [j.koperberg@bigpond.com](mailto:j.koperberg@bigpond.com)

## Community events & updates

### **Arcadian Artists 2016 – Exhibition & Art Trail**

The Arcadian Artists' "Art Trail" takes you through Dural, Galston, Arcadia, Fiddletown and Berrilee and entices the people of Sydney, Blue Mountains, the south and north coast of New South Wales and beyond to experience the special talent exhibited by their Australian artists. All work is handmade by their exhibitors.

This year they are excited to be including two new private Studios along the "Trail". Both these venues are in the Galston area.

On the weekend of November 12th and 13th, bring along family and friends, and drive through the beautiful semi-rural area of Sydney's Hornsby and the Hills Shire's. You will be captivated by the work presented along the trail visiting eight (8) private studios opening for the weekend. There will be over 50 artists exhibiting, many of whom will be demonstrating their skills.

Entry is free. Visitors are given the exclusive opportunity to view and purchase unique artworks from their creators. The works available include such items as paintings, printmaking, sculpture, glass, mosaics, ceramics, textiles, felt work, jewellery, leather, timber work, book making and handmade shoes.

Exhibitors are by invitation only and this year will include our very own Leura bodger, Roy Davi, as featured in *Heritage* November-December 2015. Roy will be wood turning at Pine Valley Studio at 6 Galston Valley Road, Galston.

Roy advises: *"Pole lathe greenwood turning is my passion. My enthusiasm for this ancient craft began many years ago when I first came across 'bodging' – the traditional craft of greenwood turning. Bodging was developed in medieval times and later used for creating fine furniture including the classic Windsor chair. More recently I have broadened my interests and now create my own style of greenwood furniture as well as traditionally crafted wooden household utensils"*.

Patsy Moppett



Roy at work

Contacts:

[www.arcadianartists.com.au](http://www.arcadianartists.com.au)

[www.theleurbodger.com.au](http://www.theleurbodger.com.au)

E: [roydavi@mail.com](mailto:roydavi@mail.com)

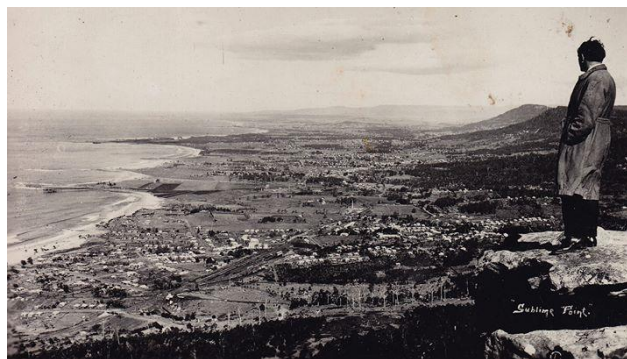
Ph: 0435 491 427

### **Royal Australian Historical Society Conference 2016**

#### **Times Are A-Changing – History & Innovation**

The 2016 RAHS Conference was held at Centro CBD, Wollongong (28 Stewart St. Wollongong NSW) on Saturday 22nd – Sunday 23rd October 2016.

The Conference examined how the digital revolution is impacting the way we research and produce history. There is also an increasing appetite for local and community history that connects people to their identity and place.



*Sublime Point Lookout, Wollongong c.1925*

The Conference showed how history plays a critical role in advocacy campaigns to ensure that these places remain part of our cultural landscape in this era of widespread urban development. How historical societies engage with these developments is critical to ensure their continued relevancy in 21<sup>st</sup> century Australia.

*Patsy Moppett*

For the conference program and more information, visit:

[www.rahs.org.au/2016-royal-australian-historical-society-conference](http://www.rahs.org.au/2016-royal-australian-historical-society-conference)

Enquiries:

02 9247 8001 or

E: [history@rahs.org.au](mailto:history@rahs.org.au)

### ***Crago Observatory Tour***

Commemorate the work of the Hawkesbury's famous astronomer (1834-1916) with a visit to Crago Observatory at Bowen Mountain for a viewing of the night sky, on Saturday 5 November at 5.30pm. Tebbutt's Crater on the moon, as well as Mars, Venus and Saturn (weather obliging) will be visible.



*Crago Observatory*



*John Tebbutt*

Crago Observatory is the Astronomical Society of NSW (ASNSW)'s "local" dark sky observing site at Bowen Mountain, located a short distance from the northern end of Lt Bowen Road. The Observatory consists of a large rotating dome housing a high class 16" Dobsonian Telescope, fitted with Argo Navis and ServoCAT as well as a wide range of eyepieces and star charts available for use with the telescope.

*Patsy Moppett*

Tour participants will meet at the museum. Bookings are essential. Ph: 02 4560 4655.

### ***St Matthews Windsor Celebrates 200 years***

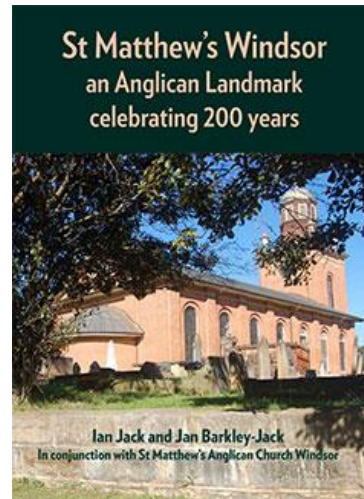
St Matthews Anglican Church in Windsor is set to celebrate 200 years with the launch of a new book by Jan Barkley-Jack and Dr Ian Jack on 12 November 2016 on the history of the

church. The launch will be undertaken at the beginning of their Bicentennial Year and will be attended by The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO.

Francis Greenway's church has become a landmark, religious, social and architectural, in the town of Windsor and far beyond. Its commanding presence in the upper Hawkesbury valley began early in the European history of the third area farmed on the Australian mainland and is still potent today.



*St Mathews, Windsor*



The book analyses the architectural heritage within its social context. The orange-pink glow of the bricks, the elegant lines and softly repetitive arched windows tell why St Matthew's has been cited as its ex-convict architect's masterpiece.

This is a new study of St Matthew's first 200 years, told not just as bricks, mortar, sandstone and cedar, but of its people in the river valley. This book recreates the life and aspirations of the Anglican community which has created and preserved this rare, early church.

*Patsy Moppett*

The book will be available from November from Rosenberg Publishing for \$29.95.

*References:*

*Rosenberg Publishing*

*Community Bicentennial Team*

***Murder Mystery at the Brewery***

On November 4th the Old Zig Zag Brewery at Lithgow (c.1893) will offer the perfect backdrop for a night of mystery and murder hosted by the Lithgow Regional Branch of the National Trust NSW.

"A Chocolate Orange", concerning the mysterious goings-on in the making of a new film is a comedy twist on the name of the seventies-style thriller 'A Clockwork Orange'. It is performed by the Bathurst Theatre Company and Mountain Murder Mysteries. The latter group is well known locally, having previously entertained visitors in the breathtaking setting of Jenolan Caves.



Lithgow Branch of the National Trust hosts

**A CHOCOLATE ORANGE**

**Murder Mystery**  
at the  
**Zig Zag Brewery**

Performed by  
BATHURST THEATRE COMPANY  
WITH MOUNTAIN MURDER MYSTERIES

**FRIDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2016**

Zig Zag Brewery (C1893) Brewery Lane Lithgow  
6.30pm—Show & Dinner \$60pp  
**TICKETS:** A Readers Heaven Bookshop, Lithgow  
0474957856  
or phone booking Lithgow NT 6359-3109  
70s STYLE DRESS OPTIONAL—PRIZES



To open the night Vaughan Bryers, official Zig Zag Brewery historian, will link history and whodunit and introduce the villains and heroes in the Brewery's past. Seventies dress is optional, and if you front up in the flamboyant and colourful clothes of that era worn by men and women alike, prizes are on offer. You could join the characters to track down vital evidence, or just sit back and work out who did it. *Lithgow National Trust*

*Show and 2-course dinner:*

*Brewery Lane, Lithgow, 6.30pm on Friday 4th November.*

*Tickets: \$60 per person from Readers Heaven Books, Lithgow – 0474 957 856 or from Lithgow National Trust branch – 02 6359 3109*

### ***Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (MAAS) Regional Stakeholder Forum***

This annual forum is an opportunity for the regional museums and collectors sector to get together, discuss current topics and be inspired by new ideas. It is designed for regional stakeholders, such as;

- Volunteers.
- Arts development officers.
- Museum Advisors.
- Program producers.
- Regional cultural sector advisors.

Speakers include:

- Ray Christison, President, Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park
- Ann Frederick, Transport Heritage NSW
- Michael Rolfe – CEO Museums & Galleries of NSW
- Tamara Hynd & Toni Lindwall – Shellharbour City Council
- Luke Grealy - Museums of the Riverina
- Yvonne Rutledge - Museum Advisor for St John Museum, Unley, SA and Broken Hill Museums NSW
- Kerry-Ann Jones - Executive Director, South West Arts
- Marcus Hughes - Indigenous Program Producer, MAAS
- Elliott Bledsoe - Queensland Writers Group
- Susan Davis - Secretary, Historian & Archivist, The Oaks Historical Society
- Cathy Mann – Holbrook Submarine Museum

The Introduction will be done by Tristan Sharp, MAAS Director, and the Welcome to Country and summing up will be done by Deborah Vaughan.



The Forum will be held on Friday 11 November 2016, from 9am to 3.30pm at the Powerhouse Museum, 500 Harris Street, Ultimo NSW. The event is free but registrations are essential. It includes morning/afternoon tea and a light lunch. The full program can be seen at [www.maaas.museum.org.au](http://www.maaas.museum.org.au)  
*Patsy Moppett*

### **National Trust Heritage Festival 2017 – *Having a Voice***

The National Trust Heritage Festival began back in 1980 and has become Australia's biggest festival of heritage and culture. There is a new name and a new home for event organisers to register their events and join an amazing network of local organisers across the country.

In the last 36 years the Heritage Festival has become the largest and longest running grass roots national festival of its type, with up to 1,400 events bringing together people all over Australia to celebrate what makes their neighbourhood special. Each year stories are told, traditions explored and histories brought to life through activities like guided walks, talks, tours, demonstrations and hands on history experiences for people of all ages.

The time is right for a different approach both to the festival itself and in the way it is marketed and communicated, in order to secure its sustainability both now and into the future.



*Emu Plains*



*Glenbrook*



*Windsor*

Some things won't change. The NT still want everybody to join them in celebrating Australia's historic, natural and Aboriginal heritage during the months of April and May. The changes they have made are designed to make the festival more exciting and inclusive and are about being part of the community.

The first stage of this new approach is a revised registration process. This will soon be live on their website and you will be able to click on "How to get involved" to be taken to a page full of information on how to register your event. For the first time they have entry criteria so you may be sure that the event you are registering stays true to the ethos of the festival of encouraging different interpretations of heritage and culture around the country.

The 2017 Festival will run from 18th April until May 21st 2017. The theme for 2017 will be "*Having a Voice*" which calls on communities to champion their local heritage and show their support for cultural and historic assets on their doorsteps.

The NT are finalising an exciting new registration portal which will be up and running in the

next few weeks. They will email out to their database again with more details and when registrations are about to open, and BMACHO will publish information as it comes to hand. In addition, there are other exciting initiatives coming up next year which will help make the Festival even bigger and better for all concerned.

*Patsy Moppett*

Contact: Kay Proos: Heritage Festival Coordinator and Events Manager, National Trust of Australia (NSW)

Hours: Monday – Thursday 9am – 4pm

Ph: 02 9258 0112

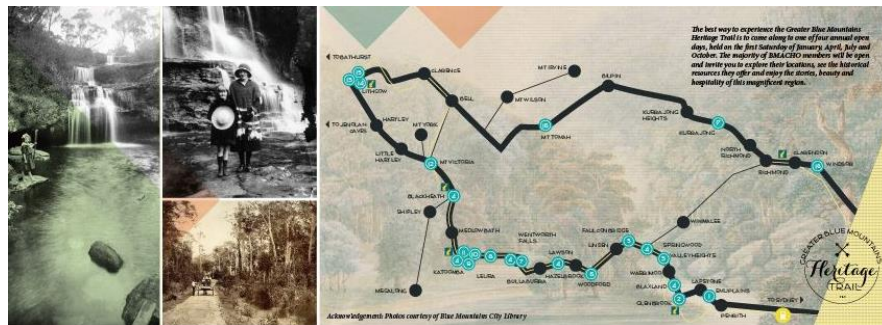
Email: [kproos@nationaltrust.com.au](mailto:kproos@nationaltrust.com.au)

Upper Fort Street, Observatory Hill (Millers Point), NSW 2000

PO Box 518, Sydney, NSW 2001

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/nsw>

## Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail



The Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail enables travellers to experience the history and landscapes, and the extensive sources of archives, images and stories presented by members of the Trail. In addition, the Trail draws in eateries and accommodation venues along the way. Brochures are available at participating businesses and Visitor Information Centres from Parramatta through to Orange, from Hawkesbury to Wollondilly, and out through Oberon to the Jenolan Caves.

**Open Days:** Following consideration of feedback from the various member groups over the past year of Open Days held, the BMACHO Committee has decided not to continue with the official Open Days beyond October 2016. For a variety of reasons, weather conditions, clash of events, lack of resources and staff at venues, etc the Open Days could not be further justified.

A number of other options are being considered by the Committee for 2017, when the Trail brochure is due for reprinting.

Feedback from members, however, is always welcome on any aspect of the Trail!

Email: [committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au](mailto:committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au) or [j.koperberg@bigpond.com](mailto:j.koperberg@bigpond.com)

See [www.heritagedrive.com.au](http://www.heritagedrive.com.au) or [www.facebook.com/GBMHeritageTrail](https://www.facebook.com/GBMHeritageTrail)

*Merry Christmas and a Happy & Safe New Year!*



*From the BMAHO Committee*

## BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

**Registered office:** 1/19 Stypanandra Place, Springwood 2777. (02) 4751 5834

**Email:** [committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au](mailto:committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au) or [j.koperberg@bigpond.com](mailto:j.koperberg@bigpond.com)

**Website:** [www.bluemountainsheritage.com.au](http://www.bluemountainsheritage.com.au)

**ABN:** 53 994 839 952

**The organisation:** Blue Mountains Association of Cultural & Heritage Organisations Inc. (BMACHO) was established in April 2006 after local historical and heritage societies and individuals recognised the need for the creation of a cultural heritage strategy for the local government area (LGA) of Blue Mountains City Council. The constituency now embraces but is not limited to, the LGAs of Blue Mountains, Lithgow, Hawkesbury, Penrith and Mudgee. BMACHO membership includes historical and heritage groups, museums, commercial enterprises with an historical or heritage component in its core business, local government (local studies units, library collections) and a limited number of individual members by invitation such as but not necessarily academics. The objectives of the organisation are:

1. To raise public consciousness of the value of cultural heritage
2. To encourage and assist cultural heritage
3. To initiate and support cultural heritage activities not already covered by member organisations.

One of the aims of BMACHO is to bring the various bodies into closer contact to encourage them to work more closely together and to provide a combined voice on matters of importance within the heritage sector.

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

**Publications:** BMACHO's official newsletter *Heritage* is edited by Patsy Moppett. The annual refereed *Blue Mountains History Journal* is edited by Dr Peter Rickwood and occasional papers are published from time to time.

**Membership:** The following organisations are members of BMACHO: Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mt Tomah; Blue Mountains City Library; Blue Mountains Cultural Heritage Centre; Blue Mountain Education & Research Trust; Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc; Bygone Beautys Treasured Teapot Museum and Tearooms; City of Lithgow Mining Museum Inc; Day Fine Art; 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; Leurella NSW Toy & Railway Museum; Lithgow & District Family History Society Inc; Lithgow Regional Library – Local Studies; 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 Heritage Museum, Woodford Academy Management Committee, Zig Zag Railway Co-op Ltd.

The following are individual members: Fiona Burn, Ray Christison, Wayne Hanley, Associate Professor Ian Jack, Joan Kent, Ian Milliss, Patsy Moppett and Dr Peter Rickwood.

**Committee:** The management committee for 2016-2017 (from April 2016) is: Patsy Moppett (President and *Heritage* Newsletter Editor), Ian Jack (Vice President), Jan Koperberg (Secretary), Philip Hammon (Treasurer), Scott Pollock and Wendy Hawkes (web site), Dick Morony (Public Officer/Membership Secretary/ Calendar Editor), Suzanne Smith and Laura Stinson (Events and Venue Co-ordinators), Roy Bennett, and Lynn Collins, Museums Advisor.

Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail sub-committee: Scott Pollock, Laura Stinson, Wendy Hawkes & Jan Koperberg.

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