

Heritage

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The Bramley Apple

Whilst in Australia we value the heritage and history of our own Granny Smith Apple, in Great Britain it is all about the Bramley Apple!

It is recorded that over six thousand apple cultivars have been recorded across the UK alone. In Australia, there may be in the order of less than one thousand.

Most were developed many years ago in the northern hemisphere when selection of fruit was based on its suitability for home growing or for local markets. Flavour and appearance were important but the cooking apple was possibly the most important. Storage times and conditions were limited and different regions sought their own cultivars to serve their regional requirements.

Social change which came with modern industrialisation changed all this. Cultivars had to be tough to survive the picking, packing, handling and storage regimes which came with industry. So, the old home garden species became obsolete.

Thanks to specialist orchardists in both Australia and across the world, many of the old varieties are preserved, and cultivars can generally be sourced from nurserymen and guilds. The National Trust (Victoria) had a particular influence on the conservation of old fruits in Australia.



The Bramley apple tree at Southwell, UK

In Great Britain, the original Bramely apple tree, planted more than 200 years ago, and the “mother” of all modern Bramely apples, is located in Southwell, Nottinghamshire, dating back to 1809. Every Bramley apple can be traced back to one x 200 year old tree! The trees are

large, vigorous, spreading and long lived. It has won many awards over the years and holds the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit.

The apple is a cultivar *malus domestica*, and current stock is slightly different from the original tree. Cloning was carried out in 1990 by the University of Nottingham, because the old tree was suffering from old age (!), and was under attack from fungus. Twelve of the cloned trees now grow in the University grounds, and one was planted beside the old tree at Southwell.

However, it was recently acknowledged in 2016 that this magnificent old tree is dying!!! The first seedling tree grew from pips planted by Mary Ann Brailsford when a girl, in her garden at Southwell. The tree was in the garden of the cottage when it was sold to Matthew Bramley in 1846. In 1856 a local nurseryman, Henry Merriweather, who was just 17, asked if he could take cuttings from the tree and start to sell the apples. Bramley agreed, but insisted that the apples should bear his name. The first recorded sales were in 1862.



The Bramley apple

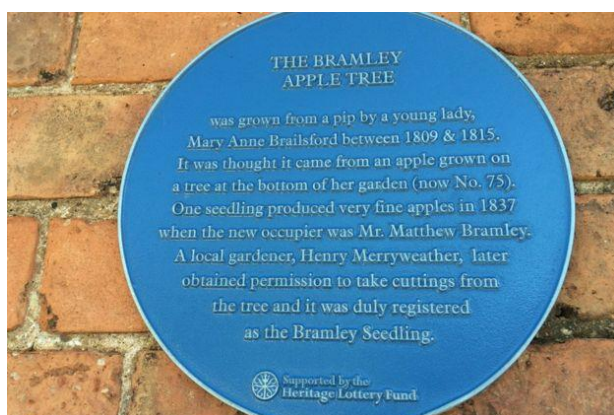


Matthew Bramley

In 1900, the original tree was knocked over during violent storms, but it survived, and is still bearing fruit two centuries after it was planted. There are now more than 300 Bramley growers across England. Although the apple can now be found in other parts of the world, it is almost exclusively a British variety.

The current owner, Coulson Howard, has been advised that the fungus is incurable. It gets into the water transport system of the tree and slowly kills it off. He hopes to preserve the tree where it stands for as long as possible once it has died.

The tree has been studied for many years and tissue cultures taken to micro-propagate the tree. Howard had acquired the cottage and garden from his aunt Nancy Harrison, who had spent many years caring for the tree and entertaining the many people who came from all over the world to visit it.



Brass plaque on the cottage



Minster stained glass window

Each year Southwell celebrates the Bramley Apple Festival, and the old tree is considered a town treasure. A plaque on the cottage wall commemorates the apple, and a stained glass window was installed in 2009 within the Southwell Minister, on the 200th anniversary of the

planting of the tree. The Minster is a magnificent cathedral with one of the finest Norman naves in Europe. It hosts a festival of food and drink and all things associated with Southwell's Bramley Apple heritage. Morris Men performances and live music can be seen as you wander the streets of one of the prettiest towns in Nottinghamshire in October.



Southwell Minster



Bramley Apple Festival

Lord Byron spent his holidays here in 1803. One of the local football clubs is nicknamed "The Bramleys". The local newspaper is "The Bramley". The town's new library and youth centre is The Bramley Centre.

The town also contains the Saracen's Arms, formerly the King's Head, where Charles I surrendered to a Scottish army in 1646, marking the end of the Civil War. *Patsy Moppett*

References:

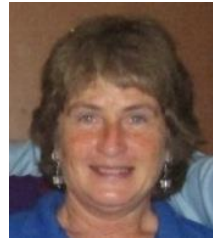
Appletrees Old & New, Clive Winmill 1995

Wikipedia – Bramley apple

Wikipedia – Southwell, Nottinghamshire

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Food for thought Editor's note

In this being the 50th issue of the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural and Heritage Organisations' *Heritage* Newsletter (!), it is a pleasure to bring to you some more articles and information, probably a little different from the usual. In addition, some of the articles are from members and community historians which contribute in their own way on topics of their choice.

And autumn is as always a busy time, with events, tours and exhibitions, information requests, festivals and conferences. It is hoped that in some way we are able to help you choose your itinerary for the coming weeks through this issue.

The BMACHO calendar of events is also due out for the month of May, so be on the lookout for it and leads to other happenings. Don't forget the Glenbrook walks, as presented in *Heritage* Newsletter January-February 2017.



Blue Mountains icon

All the past *Heritage* Newsletters can be found on our website, so if you missed an issue please feel free to download the one you need.

The new Committee for 2017-2018 was ushered in at the recent Annual General Meeting held at Hobbys Reach on 25 March 2017. The incoming Committee and the new position holders are documented on the last page of this Newsletter, and we are looking forward to the next 10 months of providing and sharing information with our members and the wider heritage community.

BMACHO will be holding a workshop later in the year to assist members with their use of Trove, and we look forward to learning more about the recent changes to this free search engine by the National Library of Australia, which will enable us to explore more deeply into our family histories and the history of our nation. More information will be provided as it comes to hand.

So keep busy as we head towards the colder months and we look forward to catching up with members at their various venues, at meetings and the workshop, or even just online, in the coming weeks.

Concrete Relief Maps

Early Aids to Teaching Geography & History

Having recently moved to Portland, about 25 km west of Lithgow, naturally I've been walking around a lot, looking for signs, so to speak, in the historical undergrowth of the town. One of my interesting early discoveries was made at the local school where my grandchildren attend. Opened as the Cullen Public School in 1884 to service the small bush community

growing around a nascent lime industry, Portland Central School is older than the town itself. It was moved to its present site shortly after the village of Portland was gazetted in 1894, adopted the new name in 1899 and has remained within the commercial heart of the town ever since. By 1931 the school had become an Intermediate High School, even taking on its first students to sit for the Leaving Certificate, and like many progressive schools at the time was clearly on the lookout for new teaching methods to enhance the learning experience of its pupils.

One of the fashionable new methods then circulating saw the construction of large concrete relief maps within school grounds all around NSW and beyond. Here was the interactive teaching of history and geography in an age before computers and for a town like Portland, founded on cement, what more appropriate idea could be adopted. Indeed, when the headmaster, J. B. Ireland, sought the help of the Commonwealth Portland Cement Company it supplied all the cement the project required and, with a number of workmen also volunteering their time, the project was completed at minimal cost by the end of November 1931.

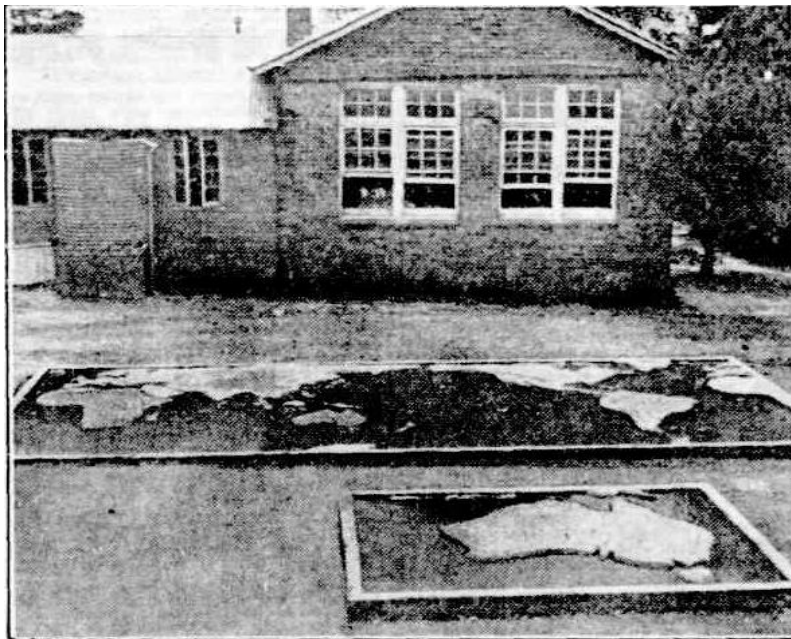


Image 1: Concrete Maps at Portland Intermediate High School, 1931 (SMH, 3 December, 1931, p.12, cols.2-3)

Unlike most other schools, Portland's project accomplished two separate maps: one of the world (28 x 14 feet) and a smaller one of Australia (10 feet). Each map was moulded in relief within shallow 'boxes' into which water would be poured to create the oceans, while atlas colours including national and state boundaries and locations of important cities were to be added later. Even a model ship "fitted with a magnet" was said to be under construction, soon to be launched and drawn by magnetism along the world and Australia's important sea routes. And finally, an observation block, complete with sun dial and rain gauge, allowed the whole cemented geography to be surveyed with ease. It was, said the *Sydney Morning Herald*, a piece of "novel school equipment".

But, as I've already indicated, it turned out to be not quite so novel. In fact, there were already some in existence by 1931 and during the following decade many more sprang up in playgrounds across the country. On a quick newspaper search I've listed at the conclusion of this article, 29 schools in NSW that initiated map projects and I'm sure there would have been lots more unremarked upon by the press. While the majority chose (or could afford) to create just one map (most chose Australia), Portland, through the practical support provided by the local cement company, was able to build both.

Though primarily school initiated projects, there are examples of concrete relief maps erected by other authorities. In 1932, for example, the Blue Mountains Shire Council constructed a large map of Australia in Wilson Park at Lawson, its surrounding 'ocean' fed

from a natural watercourse flowing through the park; while in 1937, next to the Ocean Baths at Newcastle, a 'Mariner's Pool' was built by the Municipal Council that included a large-scale relief map - with Australia and New Zealand in the centre surrounded by the world - around which model yacht owners could sail their boats. Apparently, too, even the lions at Taronga Park Zoo possessed a large relief map of Australia to amuse (and educate?) themselves.



Image 2: Map of Australia, Lawson, 1932 (Blue Mountains City Library)

The biggest and most ambitious concrete map I came across was a map of the world constructed on a scale that might have surprised even Walt Disney (or Clive Palmer!). It was, however, not Australian but spread over several acres of ground at a school in Paris. The major rivers were filled with real water and the volcanoes belched real smoke, while the sea was deep enough for boats to sail pupils from one country to another and deliver them into the hands of a small railroad system (steam engine etc.) which transported them to other more landlocked destinations.

In NSW schools, however, things were more modest. Nevertheless, though some maps remained fairly basic, there was always plenty of scope for imagination. All seem to have allowed for the presence of an 'ocean' of real water and the major cities, towns, rivers and mountain ranges were generally always marked. Centres of primary and secondary industry and the routes of explorers and major communication lines (Overland Telegraph, air and trade routes) were also commonly identified. Some schools even employed 'armies' of miniature models of animals, produce, aeroplanes, ships etc. to demonstrate particular themes of note (centres of industry, trade routes etc.). One country school in northern NSW even installed a working model of an artesian bore and a coastal lighthouse that actually flashed its light.

Such maps represent the progressive and 'interactive' teaching methods of an earlier era. Those that did survive into the age of television and computers, have struggled to justify their existence and, if not removed, are likely to be neglected and left to decay, their oceans dried up, all trace of human activity fading into a wasteland of cracked cement. Cautionary warnings, perhaps, of real-world climate disaster!

Originally Portland's maps were constructed next to each other in the playground fronting Wolgan Street but, as their usefulness as teaching aids diminished and school growth necessitated more classrooms, they fell victim to progress. Sometime before 1983 the map of Australia was 'buried' under a new Domestic Science room and later, in 1995, under the present Administration building; while the map of the world was cut into sections in the early

1990s and relocated to the Level 3 playground. Here it remains (2016), minus its original observation block, sun dial and rain gauge and, unless slow decay is to be its fate, in need of some repair.



Image 3: The Portland World Map, February 2016

NSW schools known to have had concrete maps & date constructed

Artarmon, World Map, 1936, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 2 April 1936, p.6
 Braidwood, Australia Map, 1932, *Braidwood Despatch*, 23 Sept. 1932, p.2
 Burrowa, Australia Map, 1934, *Burrowa News*, 22 June 1934, p.5
 Burwood, [? 1920s], *Sydney Morning Herald*, 5 December 1931, p.6
 Condobolin, World Map, 1938, *Lachlander & Cond. Recorder*, 14 March 1938, p.5
 Dudley, World Map, [1930s], *Newcastle Morning Herald*, 16 July 1949, p.5
 Eltham, Australia Map, 1934, *Northern Star*, 12 February 1934, p.3
 Emmaville, Australia Map, 1933, *Glen Innes Examiner*, 21 December 1933, p.6
 Fairfield, World Map, 1915, *Cumberland Argus*, 17 July 1915, p.5
 Gosford, [? 1930s], *Gosford Times*, 10 December 1936, p.10
 Kandos, Australia Map, 1934, *Mudgee Guardian*, 22 March 1934, p.9
 Kyogle, Australia Map, 1930, *Northern Star*, 12 August 1930, p.7
 Lismore, Australia Map, 1933, *Northern Star*, 11 May 1933, p.6
 Maclean, Australia Map, 1922, *Daily Examiner*, 10 Aug 1922, p.4; 6 Nov. 1943, p.4
 Marsfield, Australia Map, 1929, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 26 Sept. 1929, p.10
 Mudgee, Australia Map, 1933, *Mudgee Guardian*, 2 October 1933, p.9
 Narrabri, Australia Map, 1932, *North Western Courier*, 27 June 1932, p.1
 North Junee, Australia Map, 1937, *Albury Banner*, 17 December 1937, p.38
 Paddys Plain, [?], 1939, *Daily Examiner*, 9 November 1939, p.12
 Portland, World & Australia Maps, 1931, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 3 December 1931, p.8
 Shortland, Australia Map, 1934, *Daily Mercury* (Qsld), 10 June 1934, p.11
 The Risk, World Map, 1944, *Northern Star*, 28 August 1944, p.5
 Uralla, Australia Map, 1936, *Armidale Express*, 21 August 1936, p.6
 West Wyalong, Australia Map, 1945, *West Wyalong Advocate*, 11 June 1945, p.2
 Woodport, World Map, 1924, *Gosford Times*, 29 May 1924, p.24
 Woy Woy, World Map, 1936, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 10 November 1936, p.6

Non-school concrete maps known to have been constructed in NSW

Lawson, Australia Map, 1932, *Katoomba Daily*, 12 May 1932, p.6

Newcastle, World & Australia Maps, 1937, *Newcastle Sun*, 25 May 1937, p.5

Taronga Zoo, Australia, 1936, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 15 Sept. 1936, p.115

John Low

Author's Note: While I know that the maps at Portland and Lawson still survive and that the unique marine map at Newcastle and the one in possession of the lions at Taronga Zoo apparently do not, it would be great to learn the fate of others listed above. It would also be nice to discover more that could be added to my list. My email address is:

grizzlybear3au@yahoo.com

This article first appeared in *Doryanthes, a Journal of History, Heritage & the Arts*, Vol.9 No.2, May 2016, pp.18-21

Aboriginal place names along the upper Cox River

{The following article is the introduction and first part of a larger paper provided by Jim Smith.}

An official place name I am responsible for is Therabulat Lookout. This came about when I was asked by Blue Mountains City Council to suggest a name for a new lookout situated on the track between Nellies Glen and Stuarts Road, part of the proposed Grand Cliff Top Walk. I felt that recognition of the indigenous history of the Blue Mountains would be appropriate. During a visit to Katoomba in 1896, E.D. Hoben, a journalist for the *Sydney Mail*, interviewed the Gundungurra man Billy Lynch, who had been born in the Kanimbla Valley. Hoben interpreted Lynch's comments:

"The aboriginal tribe inhabiting the Cox River district was the Therabulat, taking their name from the native name of the district..."

In a list of local place names was included: *"Therabulat for the Cox River"*. Hoben also referred to Lynch's clan as the *"Therabulat tribe"*.

As the new viewing point overlooked what I believed to be part of Billy Lynch's country, I proposed the name Therabulat Lookout, which was gazetted in August 1988. It should be noted that, at the time, there were no Aboriginal organisations representing Gundungurra descendants.

This article has been partly prompted by the discovery by Andy Macqueen of an Aboriginal name for the Cox River, found in a notebook of surveyor Peter Ogilvie. His monthly report for March 1829 includes the annotation *"Native name of Coxes River is Duiwan"*.

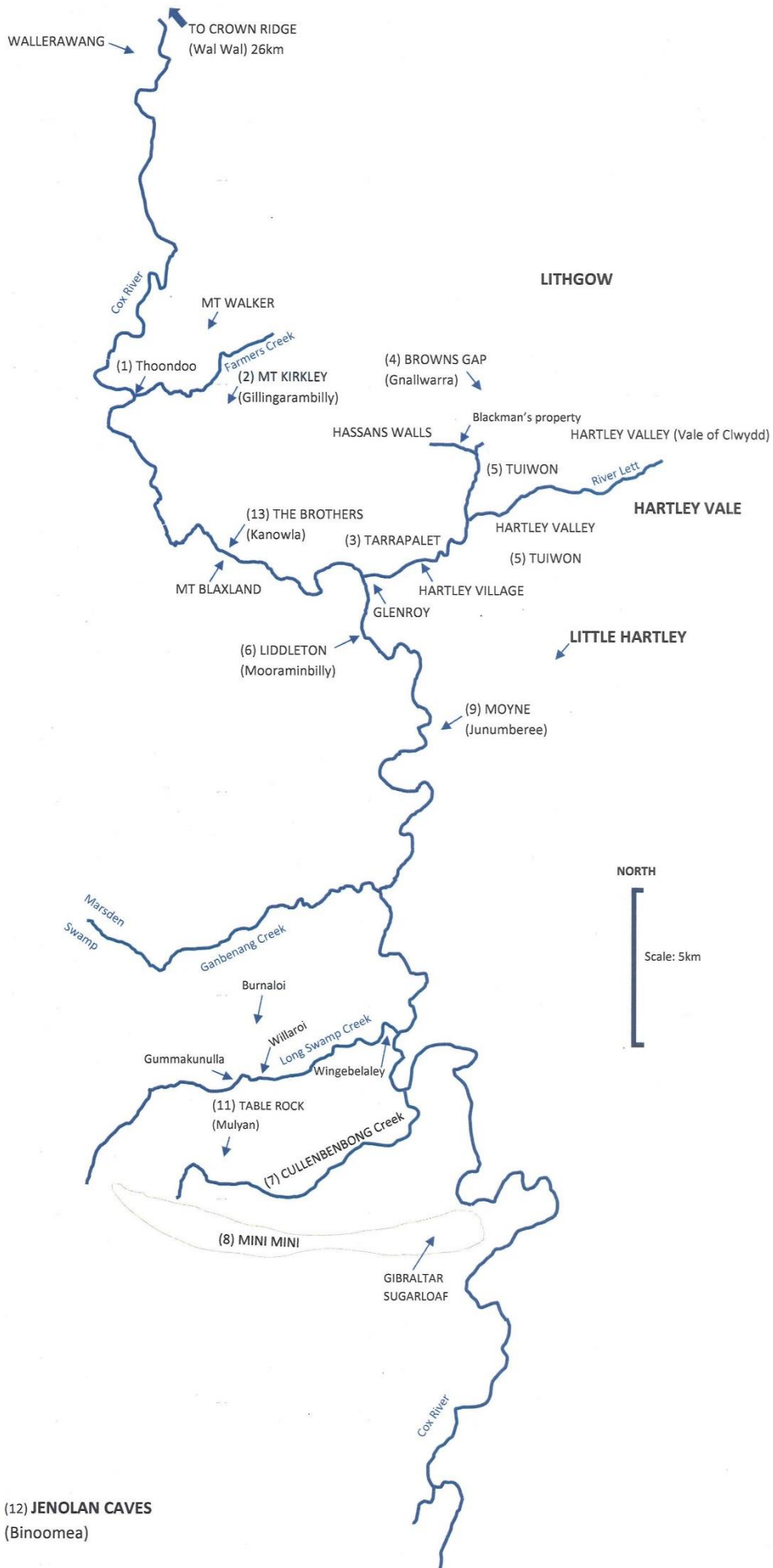
Macqueen concludes, after working out where Ogilvie had been surveying during that month, that Duiwan was the name for *"the part of Cox River from Glenroy up to around Mt Walker."*

The Cox River is over 100 kilometres long and passes through the country of numerous clans of Gundungurra speaking people, each of whom were "custodians" of the Creation stories associated with their section of the river. Place names were often derived from these stories. How many local names like Therabulat and Duiwan, for parts of the Cox River, would there have been?

The Aboriginal placenames on our maps are the result of mostly undocumented conversations between Aboriginal people and early surveyors and settlers. These conversations were fraught with misunderstandings. For example, when the earliest settlers applied for grants of land they would often describe the area they wanted as, for example, *"called by the natives Goodoomba"*. Misunderstanding could easily occur with regard to the extent of the area to which the placename applied.

The Aboriginal informant, in trying to understand what the white man was asking, could give the name of the spot where they were standing or the name for where the enquirer was looking or pointing. In a situation like this, the name of the white recorder is known but the name of the Aboriginal informant is virtually never given. In many cases, settlers would ask

Aboriginal people for the “meanings” of placenames and again this question, and the Aboriginal person’s answer, could involve mutual misunderstandings.



HERITA

Once these alleged “meanings” have become established in local non-Aboriginal folklore there is strong resistance to challenging them. A good example is the place name Goodoomba, recorded by surveyor William Govett in 1833. This is a variant form of the word also pronounced as Katoomba and Kedumba. Since the 1880s it has repeatedly been stated that this is the name for the area around the township of Katoomba and means “falling water”. It is now known that this place name was used by Gundungurra people for the area around the junction of the Kedumba and Cox Rivers and refers to the edible ferns that grew in this area.

In contrast with the great majority of Aboriginal placenames, which are the result of attempts at communication between poorly educated settlers who were not particularly interested in Aboriginal language, and anonymous Aboriginal people, is a list of names for areas along the Cox River first published in 1892. They were recorded by surveyor William Mylecharane (20 February 1843-30 March 1917).

Mylecharane published these placenames in the *Lithgow Mercury* in April or May 1892.

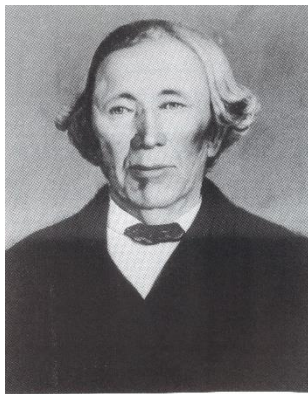
Unfortunately, there are no surviving issues of the *Lithgow Mercury* earlier than 1898.

However, Lithgow resident James Padley (1860-1918) made a transcript of the article and deposited it in the Mitchell Library. Mylecharane himself summarised the list in the *Sun* newspaper in 1913 and identified his informants:

The following aboriginal names were obtained of the places mentioned, at different times, from Jenny Clay and Betsy Grant, so that one verified the other, fully 30 years ago [i.e. in about 1883]. They were the two last Cox River full Blacks that I remember meeting.

The ‘Cox’s River Tribe’ was recorded in the 1828 census. Hundreds of different members of this group of clans went to the Hartley courthouse throughout the 1830s and 1840s to receive blankets.

The first record I have located mentioning Jenny Clay is her marriage, as Jane Grant, to ex-convict Samuel Clay in January 1855. Presbyterian minister Colin Stewart was the celebrant. Jane and Samuel were both then living at Hartley. Samuel Clay died in 1868 and Jenny then became the partner of George Miranda, eldest son of the Gundungurra warrior Murrandah (c.1780-c.1852). Between 1870 and 1880 the couple were issued with blankets at various properties in the Bathurst district. George Miranda died in 1882, aged 60. Jenny then lived from time to time at the Kiloola property near Peel. Her companion there was the Aboriginal woman Mary Ann Parker. Jenny adopted an orphaned girl Sarah who died in about 1885. Jenny herself died a few years later.



John Grant Senior



Moyne Homestead

As Jenny’s maiden name was Grant, Betsy Grant may have been related to her. Jenny and Betsy could have been mother and daughter or sisters. A number of Aboriginal people in the upper Cox River and Canowindra districts adopted the name of Grant through their association with ex-convict John Grant (1792-1866) who settled at Moyne Farm near Hartley in 1821 and established a station on the Lachlan River in the early 1830s. It was a common practice of Aboriginal people living on the properties of early settlers to adopt their employers’ surnames. A Jackie Grant of the “Cox’s River tribe”, born about 1810, was issued

with blankets at the Hartley courthouse between 1838 and 1842. Betsy Grant was frequently referred to in local settler reminiscences and folklore as 'Black Bet' or 'Princess Betsy'. Hugh Dalziel, writing about the Aboriginal burial ground on top of Tinkers Hill in the Kanimbla Valley concluded: "*The last two natives buried there were George Miranda and his wife Black Bet.*" It is possible that both Betsy Grant and Jenny Clay were partners of George Miranda. George's father had four wives.

Mylecharane was a licensed surveyor, used to precisely describing areas of land, and his informants were talking about places in their own country. It is rare to have a list of Aboriginal placenames in New South Wales where the names of both the recorder and informants are known. Mylecharane even took the precaution of interviewing his informants separately. He published the list about ten years after he first recorded it. Therefore, this list of placenames should be regarded as having a high level of authenticity.

The names are listed in the order of the 1913 article and compared with the wording in Mylecharane's 1892 article. The differences in spelling of the Aboriginal words suggest that, in 1913, Mylecharane did not have his 1892 article in front of him and was relying on memory. The numbers correspond to the numbers on the map.

Each placename, when first used, is followed by the spelling suggested by Jim Barrett, in square brackets, to reflect a more accurate sound of the word in the Gundungurra language. Barrett has recently published the authoritative work *Gandanguurra. The Language of the Mountain People and beyond*.

Jim Smith

{In his article, Jim Smith goes on to elaborate on the names listed by Mylecharane. This coverage will be presented in the coming issues of Heritage}.

References: For references please refer to the author, as they are too extensive to be reproduced in this publication. Ph: 02 4757 1327.

Lithgow Living History

Historical re-enactments are popular overseas and have been for decades. The Dark Ages, medieval times and Renaissance are popular eras for re-enactments, the American Civil War, WWI and WWII, the Vikings and late Roman times, knights and Saracens, crusaders and Napoleon, and martial arts groups. Re-enactments enable an understanding of history, and provide a way to interact with the past in a way that books and photos cannot.



History comes alive

In Australia re-enactments have occurred at least since the 1970s. With no significant civil disturbances since colonisation, many military re-enactments focus on events from other countries, mostly European. The oldest surviving re-enactment groups in Australia are the Ancient and Medieval Martial Arts Society, originating in the 1970s, and the New Varangian Guard, founded in 1981. There were earlier groups such as the Melbourne Vikings and the Medieval Society of Tasmania, which no longer exist.

Three main groups serve to cater for the interest, the Queensland Living History Federation (1997), the Australasian Living History Federation (2002), and the Australian Re-enactors Association (2012). These umbrella groups organise public liability insurance, and

represent members in areas such as legislation. They offer members, event organisers and the public, advice and guidance on such things as performance and display safety, and the reasonable representation of historical accuracy in recreational re-enactment activities. There is also the Australasian Register of Living History Organisations which is a website that provides links to living history groups in Australia and New Zealand.



Having a go

In particular, Australian groups focus on later periods within living memory – WWI and WWII, and on early colonial history. There is also a large focus on Australian Light Horse, which is significant as each participant must provide their own horse! Many feasts, drill practices weekend events and tournaments are held throughout the year. Some groups are also involved in ceremonial duties and teaching history. Some have associations with the RSL, and can be involved in ANZAC Day activities. Other events include re-enactment of the Castle Hill convict rebellion (Vinegar Hill) and the Eureka Stockade.

Within the BMACHO membership area the Lithgow Living History group (established in 2012) are very active. Some of their activities include:

- Staging a display of the anti-aircraft guns at South Bowenfels in Lithgow in 2013 during Heritage Month.
- Invitation to Warbirds Downunder air show at Temora in 2015, to display the Bofors 40mm (gas firing) anti-aircraft gun, in 2013 and 2015.
- Regular involvement with the Ironfest event at Lithgow each year.
- Social occasions and photo shoots at Lithgow's Blast Furnace.
- Re-enactment of the Ben Hall Gang raid on Bathurst.
- Involvement in the Australasian Air Show.

There are over 20 members in the group, being multi-talented as performers in the re-enactments. Several members are also musicians and singers.

Group member Ian Rufus has previously explained to local press that they have all the legalities of firearms and such, covered. While authenticity and safety are prime factors, they focus on enjoyment for their members and their audiences.

Recently Ian provided BMACHO with the following commentary on their attendance at the Australasian Air Show:

"Lithgow Living History Anti-Aircraft crew came to the rescue of Port Moresby at the Australasian Air Show, the biggest in the southern hemisphere and one of the largest in the world. We helped the 39th Battalion, the Kokoda heroes, to defend the strategic aerodrome at 7 Mile outside Moresby. Our aircraft technicians attended to the needs of the Kittyhawks that beat off the attacking Zeros. Europeans trying to escape the Japanese invasion also came to the aid of the troops, even to manning and womaning the anti-aircraft gun. Unfortunately, some of our defences were hit and we showed the scars of battle. We endured 3 days of constant air raids and put up strong airfield defence. The Bofors AA gun ran hot as we tracked aircraft attacking the 'drome. Huge fireballs filled the sky as aircraft attacked the landing strip. We had countless civilians coming to our compound to be saved from the attackers, who cheered and clapped at every plane which trailed smoke and disappeared after our shots shattered the tropical air. Our anti-tank gun, rifles and

pistols were used to good effect against the attacking ground forces.
Back to normality, our shows ran almost continuously. We responded to the crowds that gathered around us and used a full oxygen bottle which emptied last time over the course of a whole year. We had the same response as at Ironfest, where the displays and battles over the past 3 years have resulted in massive increase in attendance and ticket sales.”

Patsy Moppett

Lithgow Living History can be found on Facebook, or contact Ph: 6351 2095

References:

Email, Ian Rufus, Lithgow

Wikipedia – Historical Re-enactment in Australia

Lithgow Living History head to Temora, *Lithgow Mercury* 3 December 2015

Re-enactment of anti-aircraft guns at Bowenfels, *Lithgow Mercury* 30 April 2013

Heritage with a roar and a bang, *Western Advocate*, 1 December 2013

Re-enactment group living history in Lithgow, www.abc.net.au/local/audio, Angela Owens, 12 December 2012

Mystery photograph

Yet another mystery to solve! This particular photograph is also from the BMHS collection. However, it also remains something of a mystery.

Who are these happy picnickers and bushwalkers, and where are they enjoying their interlude? The writing on the rock to the left of the photograph may give a clue. The young ladies look to the older gentleman with a mixed set of emotions on their faces. Has he just made an unwitting joke, and they are not sure how to take it??? However, the dog appears decidedly non-plussed!

Blue Mountains Historical Society



A day in the mountains

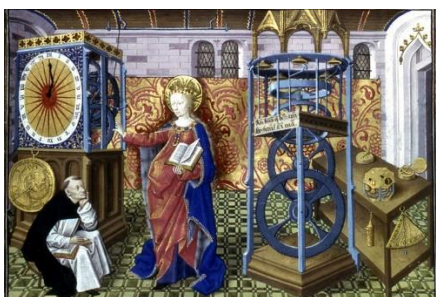
The Technical Side

The Horologist

An horologist is a person who makes time pieces and measures time. Horology comes from the word “horologe” or the old French word “orologe”, meaning an instrument for telling the hour, or the study of time.

The clock is one of the most influential and significant inventions in history. Ancient Sanskrit language had a word for “hour”. Horology, or the science (or art or craft) of measuring time, can be dated back to the time of the Babylonians, who instigated the system of 60 second-minutes, and 60 minute-hours, as we know it. The Persians divided the day into 24 hours starting at sunrise. The Athenians began the day at sunset.

The first time keeping device was probably a stick in the ground, or observation of land features and their shadows. From this activity came the sundial. Other devices used included marked candles, oil lamps or a stick of incense, which burned at a measured rate. The first mechanical clock was apparently made by a blacksmith in Italy, as an alarm clock for a brother in a monastery, who had to wake his colleagues at a certain time for the morning to start the day’s worship routine!



Clocks about 1450



Medieval



Colonial clockmaker

From this sprang the monster tower clocks that appeared all over Europe from about 1200, but which were most inaccurate, large mechanical edifices that were weight driven. The earliest use of the term *clockmaker* is said to date from 1390. The first watch appeared in about 1500, also somewhat inaccurate. Between 1500 and 1510 Peter Henlein of Nuremberg invented the spring powered clock which resulted in smaller clocks, as alarm clocks, but these were still not too accurate.

The pendulum was known from the time of Galileo, who had the idea to use a swinging bob to regulate the motion of a time-telling device early in the 17th Century.



Antique pocket watch



Christiaan Huygens



Modern watch

Pendulums were not formally applied to the clock until a Dutch mathematician, Christiaan Huygens, in 1656 made the first pendulum clock, later in 1675 developing the balance wheel and spring assembly still found in some clocks today. He is considered as the inventor of the clock. Prior to 1800 clocks were entirely handmade in a single shop under a master

clockmaker. By the 19th Century clock parts were beginning to be made in small factories, but the skill of designing, assembling and adjusting the clock was still done by clockmaking shops.

Accuracy did not really kick in until Lee Deforest invented the vacuum tube in the 1920s, and the later invention of the transistor in the 1940s. Technical and decorative designs developed and many took on the trade of clock makers, or were involved in clock repairs. Guilds of clockmakers were formed as early as 1544, and an enactment by Francis 1 declared that no one but a master could make or cause to be made any clocks, watches, alarms or other machines for measuring time. A requirement for joining a guild was to practice their craft and gain as much experience as possible. There are still many guilds where clockmakers meet to buy and sell, and have clocks left with them for repair. During the 1800s and 1900s clocks or watches were carried around as a form of flaunting social status, or a way of instilling a sense of time regulation for work in the industrial workplace.

Interestingly, actual horological manufacturing was largely untouched by the industrial revolution. It was more the movement into the UK of US clockmakers, that spelt the demise of the long case clock. Also, many watchmakers in Britain were incensed by the comments of horologist John Bennett, who criticized English watch manufacturers in his praise of the industry in Switzerland. One Edward Johnson, a watch and chronometer maker from Clerkenwell, led the response to Bennett in 1857, which led to Johnson's idea of a Horological Institute. The Institute was then formed in 1858, and led to raising the standards of British horology, publication of a monthly journal, courses, examinations and diplomas. The Institute still exists today.



Edward Johnson



Fine motor skills required

The clock must first be designed. Each part is calculated, simulated and verified several times, drawings (blueprints) are made, and each part is individually made using very precise machinery to ensure precision. Tools of the trade included small screwdrivers, and broaches (boring tools), gear cutters, oilers, pliers, calipers, die/screw plate, files, piercing saws, turns (lathes), riveting hammers, and depthing tools to align the gears. Gloves protect the hands from chemicals and cuts, and prevent fingermarks on polished surfaces. Masks protect against fine toxic dust and fibres, and safety goggles protect eyes from machinery or dangerous fluids. Keen motor coordination is required to work on devices with small gears and fine machinery.

Since most clocks are now made in factories, most modern clockmakers only repair clocks. With the advent of digital clocks and watches, jewelers have little need to employ horologists. It is not hard to find a new battery, and more people make use of disposable watches. So the horologist is becoming a rare trade.



The workshop



Precision



The clockmaker

There are many horology museums and specialized libraries, including the Royal Greenwich Observatory, also the source of the Prime Meridian (longitude), and the home of the first marine timekeepers accurate enough to determine longitude. Other significant museums are found in Switzerland, Germany, North America and the USA, France, and of course Cuckooland Museum in the UK.

Patsy Moppett

References:

www.nawcc.org

Rare Trades, National Museum of Australia

Wikipedia – clockmaker

<https://en.wikipedia.org> – Horology

Google Search – clockmaker horologist

www.city.ac.uk/news/2016/november/conversations-with-a-clock-conservator

Community events & updates

Book Launch – Hassans Walls – Prized and Pillaged

A book launched on 24 March 2017 at the Lithgow Library Learning Centre has been welcomed by the community as a definitive examination of the Hassans Walls Reserve at Lithgow. The author, Keith Painter, has spent many months walking the Reserve and also collating data from a variety of sources, to compile a spectacular collection of photographs and information. The 160 page book, "*Hassans Walls - Prized & Pillaged*", names features of the Reserve and describes aspects of the Reserve which most of the wider community is unaware of.

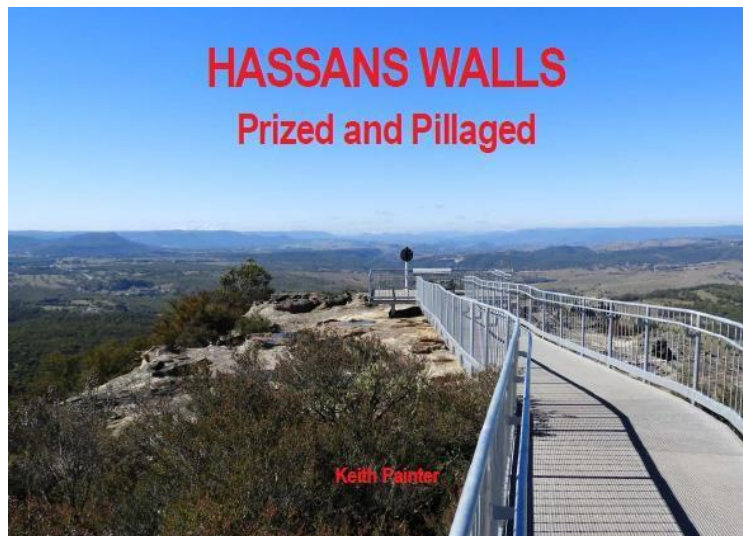
Keith, who hails from Raglan near Bathurst, says:

"The Reserve was created in 1882 and has grown to over 700 hectares. Hassans Walls Lookout is the highest lookout in the Blue Mountains and has the most extensive view from one point.

The heyday of development of facilities in the Reserve was from 1910 to 1918 under the leadership of James Padley. Lookouts, walking tracks, cave shelters and fireplaces were constructed and named after leading Lithgow citizen. So there is Rutherford Glen – James Rutherford of Cobb & Co fame and the first ironmaker at Lithgow; Dooleys Lookout – James Dooley, Premier of NSW in the 1920s; Hoskins Cave, Gannon Cave, Pillans Lookout and many more".

These are just one of the many fascinating details that are documented in "*Hassans Walls - Prized and Pillaged*".

As the book name suggests, the Reserve has had a chequered past, and its story now unfolds.



At the book launch, attended by over 80 people, the author gave a short talk, testimonials were presented by fellow bushwalker and author Brian Fox, and Len Ashworth of the Lithgow Mercury. These were followed by the formal book launch by Cr Maree Statham, who expressed her delight in the details and knowledge the book provided. The book has also been entered in the 2017 NSW Premiers History Awards for the Community and Regional History Prize!

Patsy Moppett

The book is available through the author at www.mountainmistbooks.com, various books shops in Lithgow and the upper Blue Mountains, and the Lithgow Visitor Information Centre.



Keith shows us around



Padley monument

Footnote:

The book had a timely release, given that the Lithgow City Council's Draft Plan of Management for the Hassans Walls Reserve had just gone on public exhibition. Although the preparation of the Draft PoM had already included community consultation, the recent exhibition provided opportunity for the community to provide further feedback on Council's proposed management of the Reserve and for its future.

It has already been established that there are a number of inaccuracies in the Plan, and the community is encouraged to approach the Lithgow Council web site and view it for themselves.

Now that the true value, character and history of the Reserve has been documented and the information placed out into the community through the recent book by Keith Painter, both local people and visitors to the area are urged to provide comments to Council so that the

Plan of Management truly reflects the significance of this special place both for Lithgow and the Region.

The Draft Plan of Management has been on exhibition until 28 April 2017 on the Lithgow Council website www.lithgow.nsw.gov.au

Request for information – Mt Victoria & District Historical Society

Mount Victoria & District Historical Society are seeking information on some “wall boards” that they hold in their collection. The Museum holds about twenty four (24) “wall boards” which they believe were used in the construction of a hut adjacent to the swimming baths at the Rienits School at Mount Victoria.

The School, Mount Victoria, was an independent, non-denominational, boarding school for boys. Opened on 18 July 1885, The School was designed and run by the proprietor and principal Mr Henry Guenther Rienits (1851 –1928). Although Rienits was a naturalized Australian citizen, he was of German birth and so was forced by war-time legislation to close The School during 1916. The campus was situated amongst ornamental trees and gardens on eight acres. The main building contained a large schoolroom, dining hall and lavatories on the ground floor, with dormitories on the upper floor. Facilities included a swimming pool fed by springs, rifle range, tennis court and gymnasium.



Wall boards

The “wall boards” contain names carved into the wood, one of which also appears on a list of students enrolled at the school. His name was Fred Hart.

The Museum Committee seeks information on the history of the boards, and how they came to be at the Museum.



Wall boards

Responses can be sent to BMACHO, or to Stephen Davis, member and volunteer at the Museum.

Exhibition: RESURRECT

BMACHO member, Everglades Gardens, announces its up and coming exhibition at their Gallery. **RESURRECT** is a collaboration of printmaker Jan Melville and photographic artist Tracy Ponich.

"The artists' subjects, materials and overall mood dovetail, as does the underlying notion of creating art that breathes life into things that are sometimes overlooked.

RESURRECT evokes a sense of endurance and renewal of what is often dismissed as transitory, quickly passed by, or forgotten."

- Jan Melville - Tales of boats, birds and goddesses: Jan is a teller of tales, stories that take the form of the printed image and small-scale sculpture. She incorporates found materials into her works. These might be objects from nature, or as discovered elsewhere, then resurrected in unexpected ways to give new life, and a new mythology.
- Tracy Ponich - Photographs of the land and its elements: Tracy's images explore Blue Mountains bushland, and are fitting for the exhibition space, and aspects of Everglades. The photographs of land and garden join studies of found and fallen minutiae. Isolated flora and fauna, sympathetically captured in studio, come to life through the lens. Landscape or bush element, Tracy's photographs possess a stillness and sense of timelessness.



Melville - Redemption



Ponich - After the Rain

The exhibition runs from 8 - 30 April 2017, Wednesday to Sunday, from 11am to 3pm, being open on public holidays.

The Opening was held on Saturday 15 April from 1-4pm, and included an artists' talk & carving demonstration.

Everglades

To contact the artists:

- Jan Melville:

w: janmelvilleprintmaker.weebly.com

e: flycowstudio@hotmail.com

- Tracy Ponich:

w: www.feathermark.com.au

e: photos@feathermark.com.au

Exhibition: "IF THESE WALLS COULD SPEAK"

As part of the 2017 Australian Heritage Festival, a wonderful exhibition has opened at the Woodford Academy, 90-92 Great Western Highway, Woodford, on April 1 2017. It is a thematic exhibition inspired by the architecture, landscape, real and imagined personalities, history and heritage of Woodford Academy, the Blue Mountains' oldest building.



The exhibition will feature works by select Blue Mountains Artists' Network (BMAN) artists' works being displayed throughout the historic buildings and grounds. Poetry readings/artists' talks will be held at 1pm on each of the three open days on the exhibition.

Participating artists include Greg Bakes, Cathie Cox, Mary Grieg, Caitlin Hughes, Tia Henderson, Christine Hyde, Livonne Larkins, Jo Langley, and Alison Marcer. Poets include Emma Brazil, Jenny Campbell, Mark O'Flynn and John McManamey.

Elizabeth Burgess

Exhibition dates – 1 & 15 April, & 20 May 2017 10am to 4pm.

Museum entry & exhibition:

- Adults \$6
- Concession/child (4-16 yrs) \$4
- Family \$15 (2 adults, 2 children)
- Guided tours - \$2/ person (4 + years)

Exhibition - LITHGOW'S ANCIENT NATURAL GARDENS

A photographic exhibition is being held at the Lithgow Library Learning Centre, 157 Main Street, Lithgow, from 31 March until 30 April 2017. With photographs by Julie Favell, the exhibition opening was held on 31 March, and presentations were given by:

- Vicki Dick, friend of Julie's and wildlife carer, with a passion for our native environment;
- Yuri Bolotin, exhibition co-ordinator: Nature Photography as a Constant Source of Inspiration and Knowledge;
- Michael Keats, OAM, author and bush explorer: Why Lithgow can be one of Australia's Top Ecotourism Destinations;
- And a Q & A with Julie and the presenters.



The exhibition remains open until 30 April 2017, and further information can be obtained from the Library on 6352 9100.

Pansy Line Tour

Join the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society as they take the Pansy Line Tour on Saturday 17 June 1027. WALK ALONG as they explore the remnants of the Richmond to Kurrajong Railway 1926-1952. With the railway gone for so long, it is getting difficult to find many remnants but our experienced local guides will show you what there is, much of which is on private property and not normally accessible. Coaches depart from Richmond and the tour includes lunch in Kurrajong. Some walking would be involved.



Pansy



Walking the line in 2007

Bookings are essential. Details and bookings are to be found on their website,

www.kurrajonghistory.org.au

Or contact David on 02 4567 7993.

Costs are: Adults \$35, Seniors \$30 and children \$25.

Order a copy of their Pansy book for the tour, only \$10 (normally \$12).

National Trust Australian Heritage Festival



The Australian Heritage Festival 2017 is being held from 18 April to 21 May, celebrating Australia's historic, natural and Aboriginal heritage.

The 2017 Festival theme is *Having a Voice*, and communities across Australia are invited to tell their stories through different voices, recognizing the many narratives that have shaped Australia. Thoughts to be considered include:

- When has your community joined together to be heard?
- What voices deserve to be commemorated in your town?
- What stories are shared across cultural groups in your community?
- How do you celebrate the voices that have shaped your area?
- What sounds are unique to your region?
- Does your community celebrate its heritage via song?

Our shared heritage is rich with voices from many cultures – *Having a Voice* is about taking time to stop and listen to stories from every corner of our society.

For further information and to register your event, contact www.nationaltrust.org.au

Conferences 2017

Penrith History Conference

For those of you who were looking out for information on the Penrith History Conference this year, you have not missed the Conference – it was not held! After 15 years of presenting their *Annual Makings of a City History Conference*, the Penrith City Council Library staff have made the decision to make a change to the way they disseminate their local history to the community. Instead of the conference, a program of events throughout the year has been organised:

- Saturday 25 March: *Family History Saturday: Sourcing and Sorting it*. Hosting a day to help people research and preserve their family history.
- 8-19 May: *The Many Voices of Penrith*. An oral history program.
- August 2017: National Family History Month. Talks and workshops.
- 2-10 September 2017 – History Week. Presentation of talks.
- Wednesday 15 November – film night and history talk with regard to the Light Horse Charge on Beersheba, 100 years on.
- Changing displays at the library throughout the year.
- Publications: Recent releases include:
 - 1917 Our Fallen booklet, to be released in April.
 - 2018 History Calendar, to be released in November 2017.
- Staff will attend fairs, conferences and talks throughout the year to promote the history of the local area.

More information can be found at their local history blog at <https://penrithhistory.com//>

For bookings for events or for information, call Lorraine Stacker, Vanessa Stockford or Alison Spencer at Penrith City Library.

Royal Australian Historical Society Conference 2017

The RAHS Affiliated Societies Committee announces that their next conference will be held at Cowra, in the Central West of NSW, on 28-29 October 2107. The venue will be at the Cowra Services Club, 101 Brisbane Street, Cowra.



Experiment Farm, Cowra

The RAHS will work with the Cowra & District Historical Society and the Cowra Family History Group to provide an opportunity to explore the fascinating history of the area and experience its good wines and great food. Details will be released 1 July 2017.

Travel and accommodation arrangements should be made early. Watch their website for further information www.rahs.org.au

Blue Mountains Association of Cultural and Heritage Organisations (BMACHO) Bi-annual Conference 2018

Save the date! BMACHO has scheduled its 2018 Conference a year out, and knows that last year's Conference at Mt Victoria "Artefact" will be a hard act to follow.



Conference 2016

The date is **Saturday 12 May 2018**, and a theme has yet to be determined. Watch this space!!!

Francis Greenway Tour

On Saturday 6th May 2017, Hawkesbury Historical Society is holding a Francis Greenway Car Tour of Windsor & Liverpool. The tour will be led by well-known historians Jan Barkley-Jack, and Ian Jack.

Although Francis Greenway arrived a convict forger and died in obscurity, he brought distinction to Australian colonial architecture. Windsor and Liverpool are two of Macquarie's country towns which retain works designed by Greenway.



Western side of Thompsons Square, Windsor

The tour will begin at 9.45am in Thompson Square, George Street, Windsor and end at 4pm at St Luke's Anglican Church, Liverpool. Cost is \$45.00 per person, \$60.00 per family.

Neville Dehn

Bookings are essential. Bookings can be made through the Secretary:

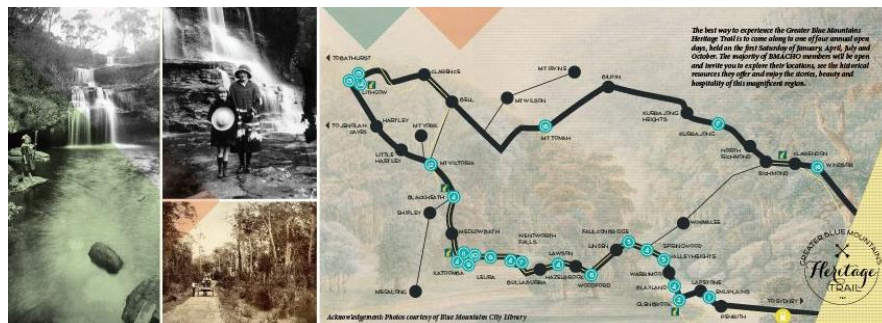
secretaryhawkesburyhistory@gmail.com

Or phone: 02 9659 4103.

Payment is to be by cheque to P O Box 293, Windsor 2756,

Or by bank transfer: Hawkesbury Historical Society BSB 062 622, Account 009 006 643.

Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail Update!



BMACHO continues to promote the Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail and members' upcoming events.

BMACHO intend to reprint the Heritage Trail brochure soon and have asked members if they wish to participate. For a reasonable cost, members can appear in the reprint of the brochure, feature on the Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail website and have their events promoted on the website and Facebook page. This process is currently being finalised.

In addition, during 2017 BMACHO intend to hold a competition to encourage visitation to Trail participant properties. For this purpose, BMACHO have asked members to think of an artefact or item at their premises that can only be found by visiting. BMACHO will then list questions on a "Passport and Entry Form", which will be an insert to the brochure, and visitors can either answer the questions or obtain a stamp showing they have been to a venue. BMACHO will hold a prize draw approximately every six months. BMACHO already have offers of prizes for the competition, and this event is set to commence soon.

If you are a member and you would like further information, or if you would like to become a member, please email the BMACHO Secretary at committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au

For general information about BMACHO and the Trail, see heritagedrive.com.au or www.facebook.com/GBMHeritageTrail

[To find out more about BMACHO visit www.bluemountainsheritage.com.au](http://www.bluemountainsheritage.com.au)

BLUE MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS INC.

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

Email: committee@bluemountainsheritage.com.au or j.koperberg@bigpond.com

Website: www.bluemountainsheritage.com.au

ABN: 53 994 839 952

The organisation: Blue Mountains Association of Cultural & Heritage Organisations Inc. (BMACHO) was established in April 2006 after local historical and heritage societies and individuals recognised the need for the creation of a cultural heritage strategy for the local government area (LGA) of Blue Mountains City Council. The constituency now embraces but is not limited to, the LGAs of Blue Mountains, Lithgow, Hawkesbury and Penrith. 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 Historical Society; Bygone Beautys Treasured Teapot Museum and Tearooms; City of Lithgow Mining Museum Inc; Colo Shire Family History Group; Day Fine Art; Eskbank Rail Heritage Centre; Everglades Historic House & Gardens; 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; Norman Lindsay Gallery and Museum; Paragon Cafe, Katoomba; Scenic World Blue Mountains Limited; Springwood Historical Society Inc; Springwood Historians Inc; Transport Signal Communication Museum Inc; Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum, Woodford Academy Management Committee, Zig Zag Railway Co-op Ltd. The following are individual members: Wendy Blaxland, Fiona Burn, Ray Christison, Wayne Hanley, Associate Professor Ian Jack, Ian Milliss, Patsy Moppett, Keith Painter 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 Jan Koperberg (web sites), Dick Morony (Public Officer/Membership Secretary/ Calendar Editor), Suzanne Smith (Events and Venue Co-ordinators), Fiona Burn, Peter Brownlee and Roy Bennett. Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail sub-committee: Scott Pollock, Peter Brownlee, Fiona Burn, Jan Koperberg, Suzanne Smith, & Lynn Collins, Museums and Galleries Adviser.

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.